

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

# Teacher's Notes

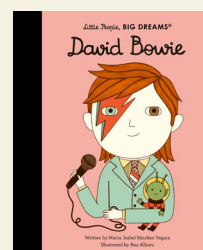
## Creative Icons - Teacher's Notes

Depending on the age of the children, the following lessons can take place over more sessions than are outlined in the notes. The lessons are pitched at Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 but can be adapted across the primary curriculum to suit the needs and ages of the children in their school.

Learning in this area is not designed to be specifically taught, but to create flexible cross-curricular opportunities such as English, particularly guided reading and writing, music, PE and art/DT.

By using these books and following the suggested activities, children will begin to understand and be able to:

- Offer suggestions as to what makes someone a creative icon.
- Understand that people express themselves in a variety of ways such as through art, writing, music, drama, dance and stories.
- That people from all cultures, races, sexual orientations and genders, and religious groups are capable of being creative.
- That for many creative icons, perseverance and hard work have been necessary for success.
- Recall and discuss key events from the lives of those discussed.
- Offer suggestions as to other people who might be added to the list.



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## Discussion and comprehension

Before looking at the books, ask the children what they think they're about and what they notice about the covers. Do they think they're fiction or nonfiction – why? Then read the books – you might like to ask the children to choose in what order you share them – and prompt discussion by asking the following questions, encouraging readers to take turns and give full answers. Offer support by showing the appropriate pages where helpful.

- What did you like about the books?
- Is there anything you didn't like about them? Why?
- Had you heard of any of these people before we shared the books?
- Do you know anything about any of them that's not in their book?
- What can you tell me about these people?
- What do we mean by creative? What makes someone a creative icon?
- Do the six individuals studied have anything in common? If so, what?
- How are they different from one another?
- How has their creativity changed the world around us?
- Why do people make art in its different forms? Is art important? Why(not)?
- Can you think of anyone else, living or dead, who has written brilliant stories or created wonderful art, drama, dance or music who could be included on the list?
- All of the life stories included in these books start when the individuals were young children and enjoyed doing something creative that they worked hard to improve on. What sort of creative activities do you enjoy?
- Most adults don't have creative jobs but still express themselves through their hobbies in their free time. Do your adults have creative jobs/hobbies? Do you think it's important for adults to be creative and to enjoy being so?
- Sometimes in school, it can seem like only some subjects are seen as being important. Do you think that's true? Do you think subjects like music, art and PE are as important or less/more important than the others that are taught? Why do you think that?

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## Activities

### Design a costume

Performers such as dancers, singers and actors often wear costumes while they are performing, like you might have done in a school play or concert. Using pens, coloured pencils or paints, can you design a costume for Kylie Minogue, Josephine Baker, David Bowie or another performer not included in one of the books? If your school has the materials, perhaps you could make a peg doll of one of these artists or one of the characters from a story by Astrid Lindgren or J. R. R. Tolkien. Maybe your teacher could use your class's artwork for a display in your classroom or school library.

### Create your own Creative Icon book

Find out about key points from the life of another Creative Icon such as where/how they were educated, for what they are best known and what made them interested in their particular art form. If you are studying a particular history topic, you might want to find out about someone from that time period or if you are looking at an artist or composer in music you could research them. You might have some books in your classroom or library to help you or you might be lucky enough to be able to search online. Use your facts to help you make a book that could be a part of the Little People, BIG DREAMS series, not forgetting to make your pictures bright and colourful and including details to interest your reader.

### Graffiti or art?

Artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat and Banksy are famous for creating works of art in public places such as on the walls of buildings. Some people like these pieces of art, while others consider them to be vandalism. Have a look at some of these artists' work before creating your own on a large sheet of sugar paper. Alternatively, if you have enough cardboard boxes – such as cereal boxes – cover those with sugar paper and then create your own art on your box before putting everyone's contributions together to create a 'wall'.

### Create a dance

Singers like Kylie Minogue often use choreographers – people whose job it is to teach them how to dance a particular routine to a piece of music – while others like David Bowie and Josephine Baker like to use their own moves. In twos and threes, can you create a short dance routine to a piece of music by Kylie Minogue or David Bowie, or something that Josephine Baker might have danced to when she was alive such as *J'ai Deux Amours* (I have two loves, which she sang herself) or some music to Charleston to (there are videos on YouTube that your teacher will be able to show you for this).

## *Little People, BIG DREAMS*

### Design a book cover

You may have read or shared some of Astrid Lindgren's Pippi Longstocking stories, or *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien, or have copies of them in school. The front cover of any book is really important in encouraging potential readers to pick it up – can you design a cover to help children to want to read one of these titles. If you are unfamiliar with the books by these authors, can you think of a book you have really enjoyed – maybe the one you are sharing as a class at the moment – and design a cover for that instead. Don't forget, that book's author is a creative person too as is the illustrator who designed the original artwork for it.