

# Critical and Creative Thinking for Families

## (Volume 11)

→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

### PMI

**The Situation:**

You wake up one morning and you're only 2 inches tall, but no one seems to notice. What would be the pluses, minuses, and interesting of this?

Plus	Minus	Interesting

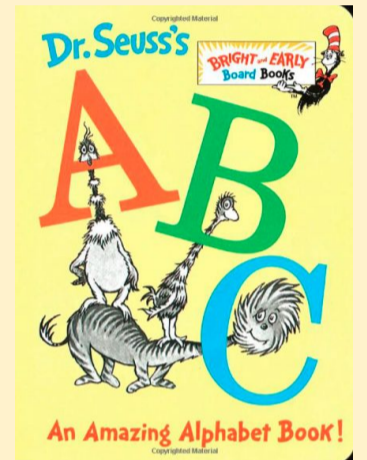
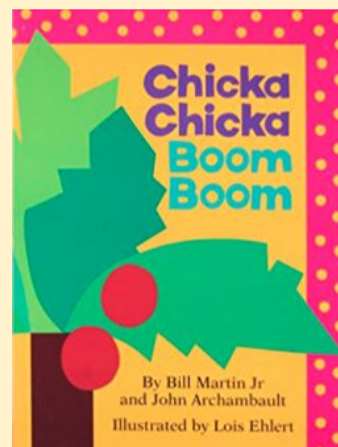
**What if...**

- You have a pet cat
- You had to walk the dog
- You had to go to a family dinner at your grandma's house

**If you don't love these option, consider using P-M-I to explore other ideas.**

### Habits of Mind - Thinking Flexibly

ABC Books, or Alphabet Books, presents the letters of of the alphabet with corresponding pictures. If you were making a winter-themed ABC Book, what might you include? How many letters of the alphabet can you connect to winter?



### Visualization

Visualize the setting from a book you've read this week. What three adjectives would you use to describe this setting? Explain your choices.



### SCAMPER

**The Situation:**

You just opened your new business, Creative Cookie Company. You are known for creating unique cookies in all sorts of shapes, sizes, colors, flavors, toppings, fillings, and more!

**What are some of the most unique cookies you can imagine?**

Can you come up with 3 cookies? 6 cookies? A dozen (12) cookies?



# See - Think - Wonder

**See-Think-Wonder** is a thinking routine that encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry. It relies on the questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you think is happening?
- What does it make you wonder?

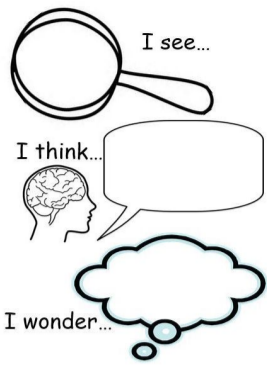


*Folk Family* by William H. Johnson

Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery

William H. Johnson, *Folk Family*, ca. 1944, oil on plywood, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Harmon Foundation, 1967.59.1055





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## Habits of Mind – Thinking Flexibly

When we think flexibly, we are able to change perspectives. We consider the ideas of others.

## Plus-Minus-Interesting

Learners use the PMI structure to keep an open-minded attitude and consider an issue from multiple perspectives. Younger learners may consider what would make a certain idea interesting (i.e. What if books were round?), older learners may use the “I” to consider implications.



## Visualization

Stated simply, visualization is a technique that involves forming images in our mind. Visualizing helps us imagine situations, events, or ideas even when what we are thinking about is not actually present.



## S.C.A.M.P.E.R.

S.C.A.M.P.E.R. is a model that helps us create unique thoughts, explore relationships, and search for new or different combinations. SCAMPER involves a variety of techniques (**S**ubstitute – **C**ombine – **A**djust or **A**dapt – **M**odify – **P**ut to Other Uses – **E**liminate or **E**laborate – **R**earrange) that help to change and improve something by changing one or more parts of the original idea.



**Remember, you can S.C.A.M.P.E.R. any of these activities on the first page. This might make them more interesting and enjoyable to work on.**