

## **Using Analogies and Metaphors to Enhance Creative Thinking**

*"Children never give you a wrong answer; they just answer a different question.*

*And the answer they give you is the correct answer to that different question" Jerome Bruner*

*"The greatest discoveries have come from people who have looked at a standard situation and seen it differently."*

*Ira Erwin*

**You may answer as many as you wish, but you must try at least 6 of the following. Think outside the box!**

1. Which is softer—a rainbow or snow? Why?
2. Which is healthier—a sunny day or a carrot? Why?
3. Which is angrier—the living room or the kitchen? Why?
4. Which is louder—going to sleep or waking up? Why?
5. Which is faster—gossip or a race horse? Why?
6. Which is greater—an enormous hole or loneliness? Why?
7. Which is faster—a table or a chair? Why?
8. Which is lighter—a feather or a whisper? Why?
9. Which is bigger—a shout or a baseball? Why?
10. Which is rounder—an echo or a rubber band? Why?
11. Which is stronger—a smile or a tear? Why?
12. Which is heavier—a gorilla or homework? Why?

***“The greatest thing by far is to be a master of metaphor...It is the mark of genius.” Aristotle***

***“Artichokes used to annoy me, until I got to thinking of their leaves as petticoats.” Oliver Wendell Holmes***

## ***Stretch Your Imagination***

**You may do all of these but you must try at least five.**

1. What animal is like a delivery truck? Why?
2. What fruit is like winter? Why?
3. What flower is like an octopus? Why?
4. A paper clip is like an ant because...
5. An elephant is like a rainy day because...
6. A pinecone is like an armadillo because...
7. What planet is like a duck? Why?
8. What color is Saturday? Why?

## ***Keep stretching***

***“The ability to relate and to connect, sometimes in odd and yet striking fashion, lies at the very heart of any creative use of the mind, no matter in what field or discipline.” George J. Seidel***

**You are now probably warmed up and outside the box enough to be able to try all of these:**

1. A teapot is like what animal? Why?
2. What number is like a horn? Why?
3. What time is a marshmallow? Why?

*"Genius...is the capacity to see ten things where the ordinary [person] sees one." Ezra Pound*

**Now try at least seven of these final brain busters:**

1. An elephant is like a camel because...
2. An elephant is like a willow tree because...
3. An elephant is like a coconut because...
4. How is an elephant like an eggbeater?
5. How is an elephant like a grandfather clock?
6. How is an elephant like a bulldozer?
7. What weather is like a dolphin? Why?
8. What season is most like you? Why?
9. What machine is most like George Washington? Why?
10. What book is most like a baseball game? Why?
11. What car is like a movie star? Why?
12. A violin is like what country? Why?
13. A volley ball is like what animal? Why?
14. A backpack is like a sandwich because...

*"All perception of truth is the perception of analogy; we reason from our hands to our head" Henry David Thoreau*

*"Creativity is a marvelous capacity to grasp two mutually distinct realities without going beyond the field of our experience and to draw a spark from their juxtaposition." Max Ernst*

**Try to draw at least two of the following without telling which number you are drawing so we can guess:**

1. Proudly embarrassed
2. Masked emotion
3. Organized mess
4. Wicked good
5. Imaginary reality
6. Painful beauty
7. Serious humor
8. Sharply rounded
9. Strong whisper
10. Tough tenderness
11. Doubtful certainty
12. Destructive construction

*"Sometimes the situation is only a problem because it is looked at in a certain way.*

*Looked at in another way, the right course of action may be so obvious that the problem no longer exists."*

*Edward de Bono*