

Being Creative !!!

1. You will be in pairs on Zoom. You will create a short story. In your group you will discuss which ideas you will include.

The story is about receiving an unusual present. The person who gives it to you is an acquaintance but has never given you a present before. The present changes your life. To start with you think it is a terrible present but in the end it turns out to be positive and you are thankful for it.

What is this person like who gives you the present ? Describe his/her appearance and behaviour

When does he/she give you the present ? Describe the setting.

What is it about the present to start with that is disappointing or unattractive ?

How does the present become something that is positive. Describe why you are thankful for it.

What is the title for your story?

You will have 15 minutes together to work on your story. Sian will visit your zoom group to encourage you :) Each person will tell half the story to the rest of the class.

2. Here is an example : The Nut :)

A very strange woman stood at the back of the church during my wedding. I did not notice her but other guests saw an old woman carrying a very ordinary looking parcel. She was wearing scruffy clothes and she looked very different from the rest of the congregation who were dressed up for my special day. The woman had grey wiry hair and she stooped. She looked out of place and seemed anxious.

After the ceremony the old lady thrust a parcel into my hands. It was not wrapped up in wrapping paper but in a crumpled brown paper bag. She quietly muttered, "Plant this in your garden." I was surprised and confused but I quickly handed the parcel to a friend as I needed to look good for the numerous photos that were being taken. I completely forgot about the strange present and the old woman as I was preoccupied with this special occasion, which was the best day of my life. I was surrounded by friends and family and we enjoyed delicious food and wonderful champagne.

When I came back from my honeymoon I had completely forgotten about the unpromising present as I was busy unwrapping and enjoying all the beautiful presents that had been given to us. A few weeks later, a friend dropped round with the paper bag. We both laughed while thinking about what could possibly be in it. To our surprise, there was a little golden nut like object. It was unusual to look at. If the lady had not told me to plant the present in my garden, I would have kept it as a pretty, little ornament.

When my husband returned from work, I showed him the unusual present. He saw a poem lightly written in pencil on the inside of the bag. He remembered it from his early childhood:

I had a little nut tree
Nothing would it bear
But a silver nutmeg
And a golden pear.
The King of Spain's daughter
Came to visit me,
And all for sake
Of my little nut tree.

What a surprise we had when a year after we planted the little golden nut, the tree bore a much bigger silver nutmeg and a large golden pear. This continued each year and provided us not only delight when we saw this extraordinary fruit but also helpful income : much more than from any other gift we received at the wedding ! We have now learned never to look down on ordinary people who give strange presents. Great oak trees grow from tiny seeds and our golden pears and silver nutmegs had a humble beginning. Our only regret is that we don't know how to thank this kind stranger.