




# FIRST COMES WONDER

**BE AWARE THAT THIS TITLE IS ITSELF  
AN EXAMPLE OF CREATIVE THINKING!**

A professor once told his students that no brilliant idea would ever dawn on them, if all they did was lay down and stared at the wall. And I bet he was right. Extraordinary ideas do not come out of the blue. Nor are they dreamed up by some genius relaxing in the sun. No way! The ideas that deserve the attention of others are the result of our time spent thinking. Our courage in handling failures. And of our persistence in finding solutions that no one (we know) has ever thought about.



We usually define creative people as the people who amaze us with what they do or with the brilliant ideas they come up with. Typically, a list of creative personalities includes names like Mozart, Van Gogh, Hitchcock etc. And, if we're being honest, sometimes we look at creative people with a little bit of envy, imagining how great it would be if there was a creativity fountain out there for all of us!

The world is full of young people with creative potential, but many of them are afraid to put their imagination to work or simply do not know how to do it. That does not mean that they are not creative, but that, for whatever reasons, they do not explore their potential.

This book contains a few general suggestions and insights that may help you unlock your creative thinking.

# HOW TO START ?

**START BY PLAYING**



Have you noticed how creative children are when they play? How they invent all kinds of things? How they imagine they cook a real meal out of a handful of leaves? How they give the objects around them a new destination and a new significance or how they simply invent words? In their imagination, an old bicycle wheel becomes a ship's steer and an ordinary rug turns into the flying carpet from *The Arabian Nights*.

If you want to enjoy the fruits of your own creativity, you could start by unleashing the grip of seriousness on it. Adults often lock their creativity away for fear of making mistakes. They are afraid of failure and of being mocked. They are prisoners of a boring routine and are constantly seeking recognition (and a salary raise in the process). The result is that their imagination gets stuck just like an elevator between two floors.

You want to write a story that will get published? Start by typing on your computer the first few story ideas that cross your mind. Don't take them too seriously, or start fantasizing about winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, or daydream about which actor would be right for the lead role, once you sell the adaptation rights.

Do you want to draw a cartoon? Take a pencil and a piece of paper and start drawing whatever you feel like, without thinking about how many likes you're going to get after posting it on Facebook.

Do you dream about throwing a party to be remembered 50 years from now? Make a list of all the things that you yourself would enjoy at a party, without wasting your time with questions like, "I wonder, will my guests really enjoy it?"

The point is to regard things in a playful manner, and to stop treating them with the utmost gravity. It is true that playing is not the same as creativity. To achieve the desired results, you'll need to consider other things, too. But, at any rate, keep in mind that there is no such thing as creativity without play.

