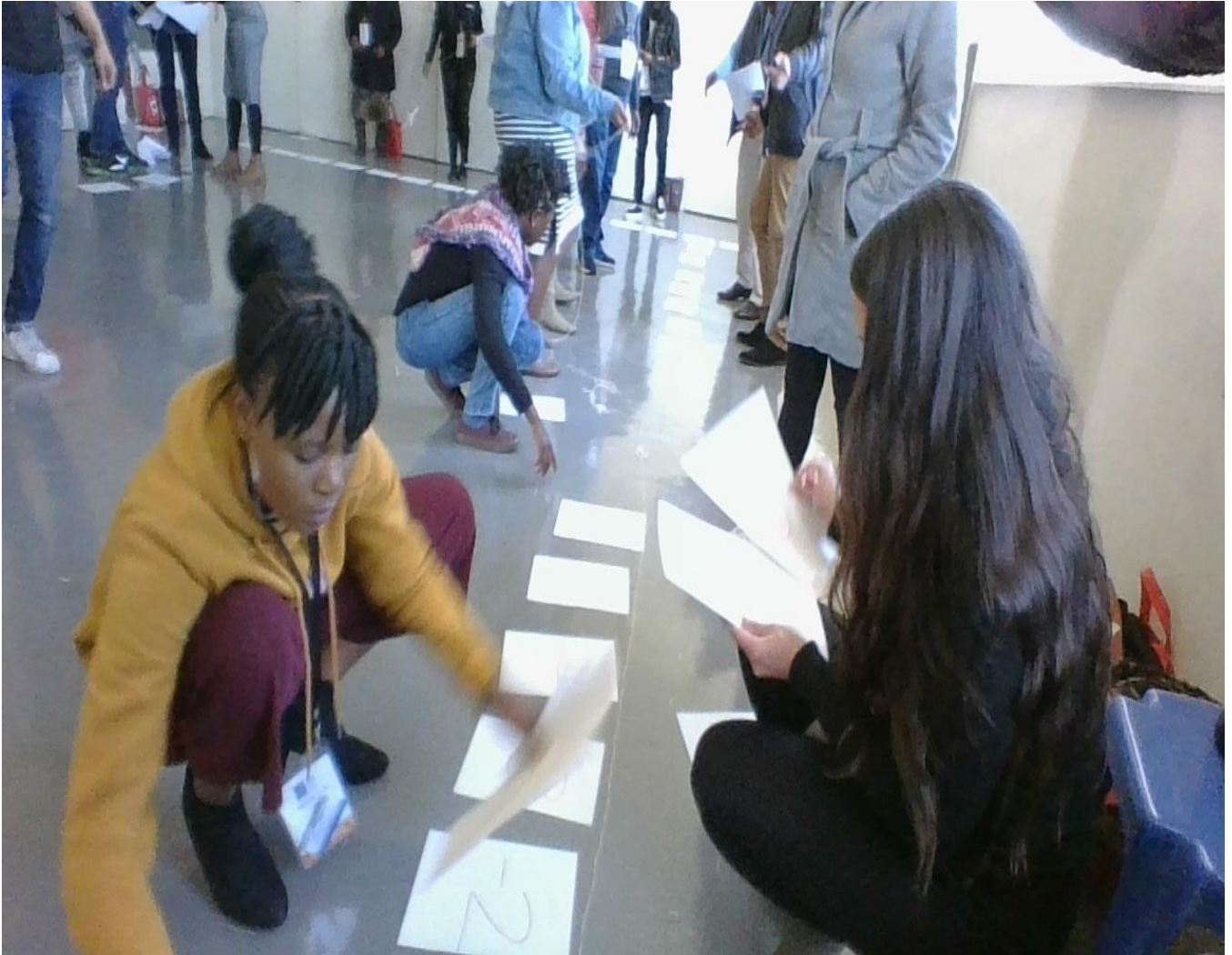




EXPERIENCE THIS!

*by Kurt Minnaar, Dreamer Education*





*Teachers and aspiring teachers working on a number line that is incorporated in dance as a creative way of teaching mathematics to learners.*

Dance is a universal language. This as stated in the 2012 study *Fostering a Creativity Mindset for Teaching (and Learning)*, for creativity to be a priority within schooling, we need teachers who understand the importance of creativity and appreciate its pedagogical value. However, creativity is not usually high on the list of reasons for choosing to teach. This is why creativity is not prioritised in teaching. The importance of teaching creatively is because learners are different, and they were all meant to be great.

According to Webster 2017 music is seen as elitist for those who are seen as the talented few. These school programs are expensive, and they are not at the nucleus of what schools do. Music is seen as vocational training and entertainment and not a central force for all students' development of personal expression, creativity, and aesthetic understanding. Therefore music and dance are not embedded in the school curriculum because it is not seen as crucial for learner development. Music teachers resort to non-musical ways to defend music in the schools as helping student concentration, independence, and math scores—rather than as a fundamental way of knowing what the arts provide. Why can't we educate today's music teachers to feel comfortable teaching a wind ensemble, overseeing a rock band, leading a song writing class using acoustic and digital technology, and organizing concerts of student-created music in schools and community centres. Weber described creative teaching skills are about working towards the genesis of something unique, both within and outside of the learner. It's important to teach creatively for a few reasons Some of these reasons include creativity as the heart of the classroom.

- It empowers students and teachers to express ideas and opinions in unique ways.
- Creative teaching leads to active learning.

To promote individuality and something that is personal and unique to the learners, teachers need to focus on the importance of teaching creatively. It does not matter whether it is an idea, a learning moment, or any type of creative resonance.

In this workshop, mathematics and dance were brought together not only as a way of teaching learners to easily understand numbers but for teachers to accommodate learners with different needs. This session encouraged educators teaching different subjects but was specifically directed for those who teach mathematics. Teachers can use dance or any other creative form to teach learners. The workshop suggested that for learners to easily understand it is important for them to understand the basic. This was illustrated by teaching teachers the basics of dancing and then moving on to teaching them complex dance moves. According to Kurt, this is how education is supposed to be. It should ensure that each learner gets the basics right in the foundation phase in order to get the rest of the grades right. This dance method will be used to teach children multiples of 6. It is easier to learn complex information once you get the basics right. First, learn the basics then keep adding other difficult steps. The methods include a combination -7 to 7 number line and dance moves to teach mathematics. The addition and subtraction part of the dance involved participants counting their steps on the number line and the number they land on is the answer to the question posed by the facilitator. Teachers point fingers at how learners performance. Accountability falls in the hands of teachers, learners and parents. The department of education needs to change the curriculum to accommodate the needs of different learners.

Teacher competency affects the performance of learners. This means learners perform poorly because teachers are not competent in the subjects that they teach. This is a challenge in every school. Teachers that are not creative in their teaching are unable to facilitate teaching for diverse learners with varying needs and as a result, produce learners with lower grades. This also hinders the teachers ability to bring ideas to the classroom that allow children to learn. This then means they need to do away with the mainstream way of doing things which is how everybody is teaching. This requires educators to figure out how to creatively teach children with different needs, these include teaching in inclusive education which requires different strategies of teaching. Since we are in an education system that focuses on the collective and does not offer individually tailored services, it is not easy to cater to the needs of individuals with varied needs.

This makes it difficult for most learners to learn in the system as their individual needs do not get enough attention. Therefore, dance can be used to bring individuality in the classroom. Each learner will have their individual needs catered for. Each individual can be allowed to add their own individual style (freestyle) which allows them to learn faster. Creative teaching may also involve learners coming up with their own ways of learning. This encourages learners to learn while they are having fun and thinking creatively about what they love and how they learn through that. Learners learn best through this method as they do what they love and it is easy to be disciplined and listening with understanding. This is the same with education, one needs to get basics right in the foundation phase and then move on, it is easy to understand the content when one has had the best initial early learning. Furthermore, creativity makes it is easy to stick to the rhythm to ensure concentration as learners will be doing what they love.

A few things were mentioned as critical for the process of learning. Everything flows immediately after the individual has a grasp of the information shared in the classroom. Repeating is important for children to understand the content better. Discipline is empirical in teaching for both the teachers and the learners. It is important to leave learners with a lesson for each day so that they can better remember things. The one solution towards the challenges that learners face is to move away from traditional ways of teaching. Learners may easily get bored; therefore, originality is crucial. Therefore, teachers need to come up with creative ideas of teaching to avoid predictability as predictability is tedious for learning. Indeed, teachers need to adapt to change. Let us not blame children for our incompetence. Design their own using cheap material that can stimulate learning in children. A little planning with kids and let them lead, let those who are shy and considered naughty strive by allowing them to enjoy their own creative activities that ensure for easy learning.

Kurt made an example of a naughty child in his class, he played music and they all started dancing. They were able to express themselves creatively more than they do when they are taught traditionally. A Nasty C song was played and children started singing and dancing. The boundaries created by traditional ways of learning can be closed through teaching creatively. Disruptive *class* challenges are encountered parents are there to help children to cope but if there is no help then teachers need to step in. Rhythm and movement make learning through music more fashionable. It is up to us as the new generation of teachers we need to come up with creative ideas. Teachers need to be proactive in coming with new ways of teaching.

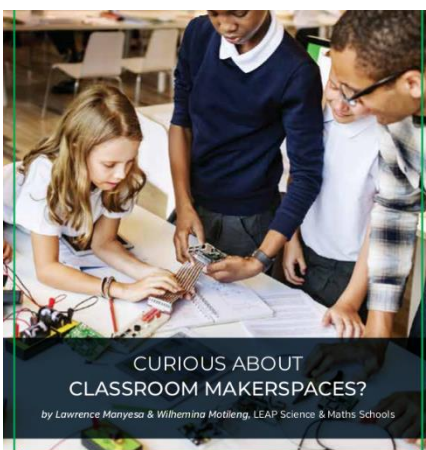
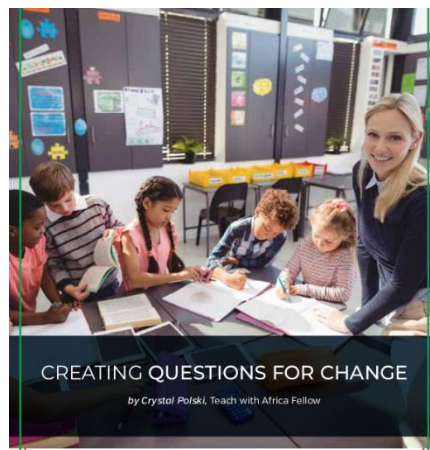
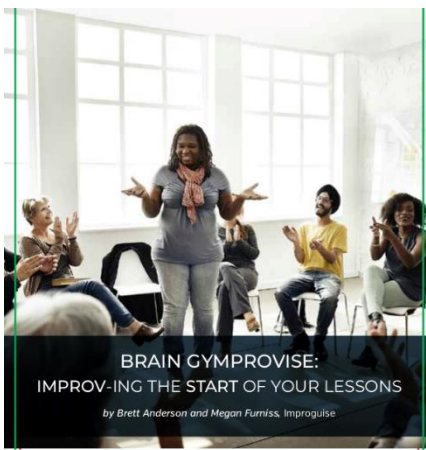
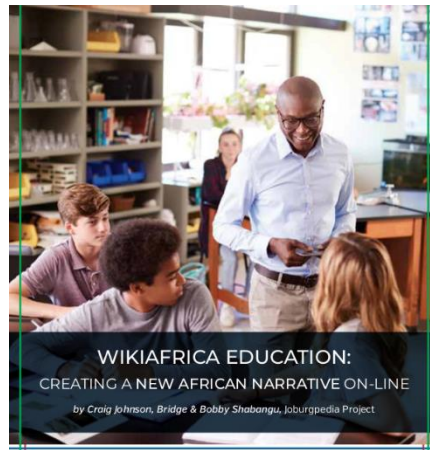
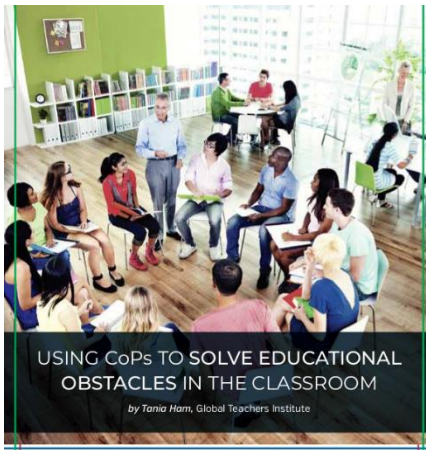
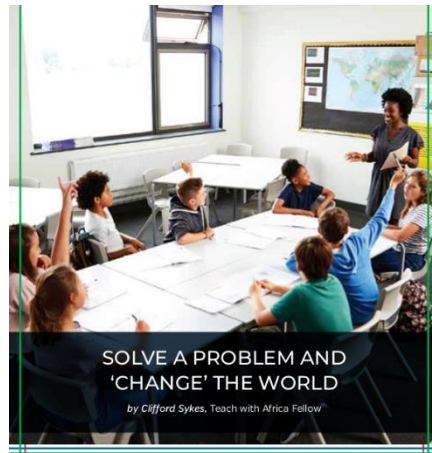
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## PRESENTER



### Kurt Minnaar

Kurt Minnaar is a youthful, dynamic Mathematics teacher, dancer and choreographer.

He is the founder of Dreamer Education, a non-profit organisation, which is making strides in education; combining dance and visual art with Maths education. His creative multimedia materials seek to reinvent the wheel in the way maths is presented to his students.

## PRODUCER



### Akani Mkansi

*'I believe that for education to thrive, addressing some of the social issues faced by communities is crucial and can be a solution amongst others.'*

*'By so doing, we can create a society where children and youth can challenge themselves in acquiring knowledge without social issues getting in the way of their success. I hold a BA Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Johannesburg.'*

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