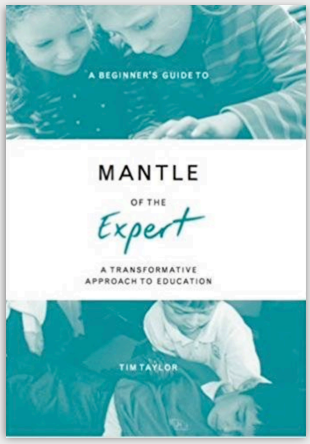
MANTLE OF THE EXPERT

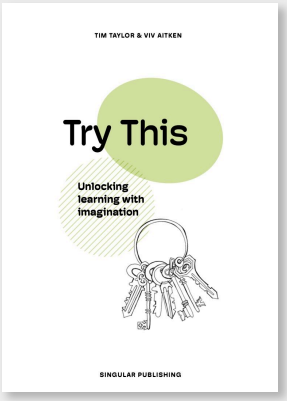
Newsletter

A Beginner's Guide to Mantle of the Expert



£15 + p&p

Try This: Unlocking learning with imagination



£25 + p&p



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the Mantle of the Expert newsletter. Wherever you are in the world, we're pleased to share updates, resources, and opportunities to support your work with MoE. Whether you're new to the approach or developing it across your setting, we hope this issue offers useful ideas and support.

Inside, you'll find information on upcoming training, events and other news, both in the UK and internationally.

We're especially excited to introduce our growing library of **Custom GPTs,** designed to help you create contexts, generate scenarios, and support you in the development of your practice.

This newsletter is part of a wider effort to connect and strengthen the MoE community. If you have something to share - resources, examples of practice, or reflections - we'd love to hear from you.

Wishing you a creative and purposeful term ahead, wherever and whenever it begins.

Warm wishes,

The Mantle of the Expert Team

Introducing Our Custom GPTs

AI tools to support your planning and teaching with Mantle of the Expert

We're excited to introduce a growing collection of Custom GPTs - bespoke AI tools designed specifically to support teachers using Mantle of the Expert in the classroom.

These tools were created using OpenAI's GPT technology and trained with carefully curated guidance about MoE. They are easy to use, work directly in your web browser (no downloads required), and are currently freely available during this development phase to subscribers of the Mantle of the Expert newsletter.

Whether you're new to Mantle or an experienced practitioner, these tools are designed to save you time, deepen your planning, and help you think creatively about your teaching.



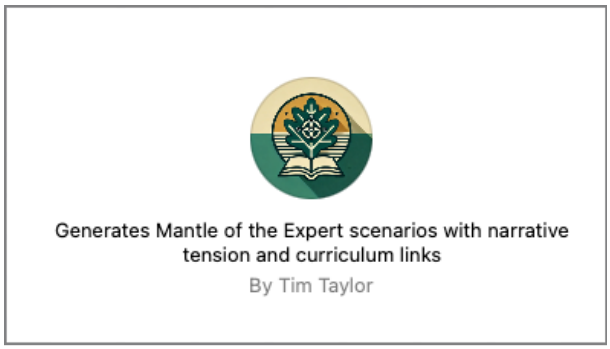
Mantle Planner GPT

The Mantle Planner helps you design full MoE contexts from scratch. It guides you through key steps in the planning process, including selecting curriculum links, inventing a fictional enterprise, designing tasks for the expert team, and embedding drama conventions. It can generate draft overviews and offer suggestions based on your chosen topic and age group. Access the Mantle Planner GPT →

MoE Scenario Generator GPT

The Scenario Generator helps you create fictional moments and moments of dramatic tension. Use it to generate discoveries, dilemmas, letters, or decision points for your team to respond to—either while planning a unit or mid-sequence.

Access the Scenario Generator GPT →



Each tool is accompanied by a short walkthrough video to help you get started. 👉 Video Walkthroughs

Over the coming weeks, we'll be releasing a whole range of new GPTs to support different aspects of planning and teaching with Mantle of the Expert. If you have ideas for tools you'd find useful, we'd love to hear from you.

Scenes from Chicago



Summer Institute 2025 – Institute for Imaginative Inquiry

This July, the Institute for Imaginative Inquiry held its 9th annual Summer Institute in Chicago, Illinois. Thirty educators from across the United States - and one from the UAE - took part in the four-day intensive, exploring the techniques of Dramatic Inquiry and Mantle of the Expert.

One participant reflected:

"It is incredible to dig deep into this work! The activities were scaffolded in a way where we slowly took ownership for more and more pieces. All of the examples of mantles were helpful for many reasons – inspiration to write our own, actually feeling how kids would feel doing this, seeing the outcome of how many ways the kids would learn from this experience. Wow!!"

To find out more about upcoming workshops, visit:

👉 *Link: Upcoming Events*

Imaginative Inquiry Teacher Support Forum
September 13, October 11, November 8, December 6
3:30-4:30 ET over Zoom

Dorothy Heathcote Now International Drama Conference

6-9 November 2025

"THE BEST CONFERENCE ON DRAMA IN EDUCATION IN THE WORLD!"

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Four days of workshops and presentations, with an international line-up of presenters including Cecily O'Neill, Brian Edmiston, Stig A. Eriksson, Tim Taylor, Iona Towler Evans and more.



6 NOV: ONLINE DAY with an international line-up of speakers and panellists

7 NOV: "CREATIVE PRACTICES" DAY - delegates will work for a day with leading practitioners, and take part in a drama session in a local school

8-9 NOV: TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WEEKEND with practical drama workshops, presentations and panel discussions.

You can book for all four days; or you can book separately for the Online day, the 'Creative Practices' day, and the Conference Weekend.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

https://www.mantlenetwork.com

Creative Learning Award

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA
CREATIVE PEDAGOGIES

From the Storymakers Company: The Hub for Creative Pedagogies

👉 Creative Pedagogies

This September, the Storymakers Company launches the Creative Learning Award, a two-year programme supporting schools to embed creative pedagogies, ethical agency, and social-emotional learning across the whole school community.

Designed for senior leaders, teachers, and creative practitioners, the award offers a developmental framework built around seven key competencies, including creative pedagogy, curriculum and assessment, ethics and values, and pupil voice.
The first year focuses on developing individual leadership and expertise. The second year supports whole-school change, positioning collective creativity as a driver for compassionate, socially responsible education.

Keep an eye out for our next **Storymakers Conference** which will be held on the 27 & 28th February 2026 in Leeds. Exciting details coming soon.

Demo Day at Christ the King RC Primary School

Christ the King RC Primary School, Holly Avenue, Walkden, Manchester M28 3DW

🕘 ***Thursday 7th November 2025 | 9.00am – 3.00pm***



As part of the Dorothy Heathcote Now International Conference, Christ the King Roman Catholic Primary School in Walkden is opening its doors for a full-day demonstration of Mantle of the Expert in practice.

The school has embedded Mantle of the Expert across every year group—from Nursery to Year 6—creating a consistent, whole-school approach to imaginative inquiry. During the day, visitors will have the opportunity to observe demonstration lessons with both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes, taught by Tim Taylor. These live sessions will showcase how the approach can be used to build purposeful, engaging, and collaborative learning.

There will also be opportunities to talk with staff and the Headteacher about how Mantle of the Expert has been integrated into the school's curriculum over time, and what it takes to sustain the practice across a whole staff team.

This event is part of the Creative Practices day on Thursday 7th November. Spaces are limited and advance booking is essential.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Free online course for beginners



This beginner's course to Mantle of the Expert will introduce you to the fundamental elements of the Mantle of the Expert approach and its application in the classroom. Ideal for staff-meetings or self-study.

Online course for intermediate and advanced users

A five unit online course focusing on the methods and principles used to engage children in learning and make Mantle of the Expert work successfully in the classroom. Sign up and study at your own pace. Includes resources, planning, and exercises for practicing in the classroom.

"I have been using Mantle of the Expert in my teaching for 15 years, and this course elevated my understanding and teaching of MOE in leaps and bounds! The course systematizes MOE so that it's not just something you have to figure out on your own. It breaks everything down, naming the components and techniques, and explains each in a step-by-step way. The best part for me was to see and hear examples of these various components and how they are applied to a unit of study. I was able to use what I learned in my teaching immediately."

New Price: £50

Use this code to get a 50% discount: HXIN07Z3AH

Training in Mantle of the Expert 2025/26



Mantle of the Expert is increasingly recognised as a transformative approach to teaching and learning. Our training and professional development offer a uniquely comprehensive pathway, combining INSET sessions, demonstration lessons, one-to-one coaching, and online courses.

To find out how we can support the development of Mantle of the Expert in your setting, please visit our website or get in touch at: email: Info about training.

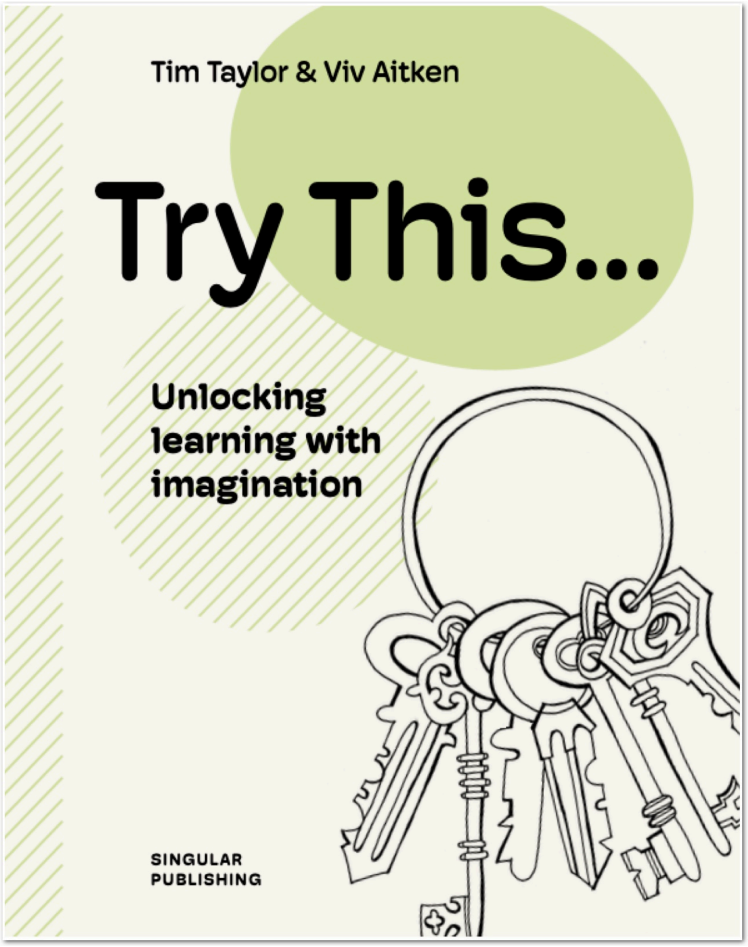
Here are some of the things people have said about our courses:

"Thank you so much for such the inspiring training. Lou and I returned to work full of new ideas! My area for professional development within the three dimensions of MoE was inquiry. I re-planned a lesson based around drama using the skills I had learnt on this training. Wow! The results were amazing. The children were asking a lot more questions and analysing situations but also discussing ways of improving and developing the situation we were in within our story."

"The training really consolidated my learning and gave me fresh ideas on how to engage children in a meaningful ways. This is the most comprehensive and practical training available on Mantle of the Expert. Having practiced MOE in many schools, this course gave me new skills and ideas to take to the classroom. This course is essential for any teacher or practitioner looking to practice Mantle of the Expert, it has revolutionised the way we work in schools."

Contact us

Try This: Unlocking Learning with Imagination



Try This is a great collection of forty tried and tested learning sequences, or 'keys', designed to bring classroom learning alive.

If you are a teacher planning to create active, engaging, rigorous and memorable learning experiences for your students, this book is for you.

All the keys use Dramatic Inquiry; an approach to teaching based on the methods of legendary educator Dorothy Heathcote.

"I am constantly amazed by the miracle of the way thinking about a dramatic idea can in an instant become that of carrying it into action. There is a world of difference between someone in a class saying, 'Well they would take all their belongings with them', and saying, 'Let's pack up and leave'. That is the switch I work for, to enable a dramatic exploration of ideas to take place."
Dorothy Heathcote, Signs and Portents

What people are saying about *Try This...*

"The whole concept, including the metaphor of keys, is brilliant. It is like reading your favourite recipe book, with simple instructions that anyone can follow and return to time and again."
Whakarongo Tauranga, Associate Principal, Knighton Normal School, Hamilton, Aotearoa New Zealand

"What a stunning book this is! Will breathe life into children's learning and joy into your teaching."
Nicole Winter, St Nicholas C of E Primary School, Wantage, UK

"Teachers, if you would like a classroom full of highly invested, engaged learners busily immersed in a context and eager to learn more, then have a little dabble with Try This. You don't even need to read the whole book ... but I bet you do! An absolute game changer."
Julia Baker, Deputy Head Teacher, Bradshaw Primary School, Halifax, UK


Tim Taylor


Viv Aitken