



Welcome to **Creative Bursts**, short creative activities to do at home with children of age 8/9+.

Creative Bursts are created by Sarah Webb in partnership with MoLI – Museum of Literature Ireland. Sarah Webb is an award-winning children's writer. Her children's books include *A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea*, illustrated by Steve McCarthy and *Blazing a Trail: Irish Women Who Changed the World*, illustrated by Lauren O'Neill.

MoLI is committed to youth creativity and alongside the free primary schools tour and workshops programme, we also run Bright Sparks – a series of creative workshops facilitated by Irish writers and illustrators where families embrace the opportunity to play and create together.

Episode #12 – Fireworks

Our theme this week is fireworks. It's inspired by the work of Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang who creates amazing art work using fireworks.

Creative Bursts Challenge 1

Writing is all about painting pictures with your words. When I say fireworks, what words come into your head? Make a list – we'll use these words in our next challenge.

If you like you can do some more research first – how about looking up the science behind fireworks and when they were invented.

You can add some of the new words you find to your list of firework words.

Creative Bursts Challenge 2

Use the firework words you have gathered to create your own haiku.

A haiku is a poem with 17 syllables:

Line 1 – 5 syllables

Line 2 – 7 syllables

Line 3 – 5 syllables

A syllable is a vowel sound – every time your jaw drops when you talk, that's a syllable.

So my name, Sarah Webb, has 3 syllables. Sarah (Sa-rah) has 2 syllables and Webb has 1 syllable.

Here is a famous haiku from the past:

An old silent pond ...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.
Matsuo Bashō

Now write your own haiku. If you like you can start with this line:
I look at the sky.

Creative Bursts Challenge 3

Write a short story using the following opening line:

On New Year's Eve I was watching the fireworks when I heard a voice beside me say...

You can illustrate your story or write and draw it as a comic strip. You can make it a fantasy story, a ghost story, or a science fiction story – you decide!

Creative Bursts Challenge 4

Use the above image of red and white fireworks lighting up the sky to inspire a poem or story. Imagine you are watching the fireworks – what do you see, hear, smell and taste? How do the fireworks make you feel? Happy writing!

Extra Creative Bursts Challenge

Draw or paint a sky full of colourful fireworks. The bolder and brighter the better!

