

Cracking Creativity Michael Michalko

In this volume, Robert Weisberg demystifies the phenomenon of creativity. Backed with case studies, psychological research findings, and investigations of the work of some of history's most creative personalities (Newton, Edison, Picasso, Mozart, and others), Weisberg demonstrates that creative thinking is an extension of our normal mental capacity--that the roots of 'genius' lie in all of us. Chosen by BusinessWeek as One of the Top Ten Business Books of the Year With apologies to Hegel, Marx, and Lenin, the basic unit of modern society is neither the state, nor the commune, nor the party; it is the company. From this bold premise, John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge chart the rise of one of history's great catalysts for good and evil. In a "fast-paced and well-written" work (Forbes), the authors reveal how innovations such as limitations on liability have permitted companies to rival religions and even states in importance, governing the flow of wealth and controlling human affairs—all while being largely exempt from the rules that govern our lives. The Company is that rare, remarkable book that fills a major gap we scarcely knew existed. With it, we are better able to make sense of the past four centuries, as well as the events of today.

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Examines the nature of creativity, exposes the inefficiencies of universities and corporations, and attacks the intolerance of liberalism

From Bryan Mattimore, innovation guru to Fortune 500 companies, comes a book for aspiring entrepreneurs, corporate “intrapreneurs,” and anyone else looking to break the mold. Bryan Mattimore is a big idea guy. For the past twenty-five years, he has helped Fortune 500 companies create over \$3 billion in new innovations using his unique creative-thinking exercises. In **21 DAYS TO A BIG IDEA: CREATING BREAKTHROUGH BUSINESS CONCEPTS**, Mattimore takes readers through a disciplined creative process to create original and practical new business concepts. By investing less than an hour a day for twenty-one days, you will: 1) learn a new toolkit of creative thinking strategies and problem-solving techniques that can be used for solving a wide variety of both personal and professional challenges, and 2) generate more than a dozen new concepts from which to choose the highest potential/winning idea for a new start-up. Entertaining and easy-to-follow, **21 DAYS TO A BIG IDEA** is a must-read for all aspiring entrepreneurs, helping you to discover and implement your first—or your next—biggest idea. "Greatness starts with an idea, but the chasm between ideas and truly great ideas is vast. This terrific, approachable book provides a simple and straightforward method for bending and torturing almost any idea until it

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succumbs to greatness."—Bob Dorf, co-author of THE START-UP'S OWNER'S MANUAL

A science-backed method to maximize creative potential in any sphere of life With the prevalence of computer technology and outsourcing, new jobs and fulfilling lives will rely heavily on creativity and innovation. Keith Sawyer draws from his expansive research of the creative journey, exceptional creators, creative abilities, and world-changing innovations to create an accessible, eight-step program to increasing anyone's creative potential. Sawyer reveals the surprising secrets of highly creative people (such as learning to ask better questions when faced with a problem), demonstrates how to come up with better ideas, and explains how to carry those ideas to fruition most effectively. This science-backed, step-by-step method can maximize our creative potential in any sphere of life. Offers a proven method for developing new ideas and creative problem-solving no matter what your profession Includes an eight-step method, 30 practices, and more than 100 techniques that can be launched at any point in a creative journey Psychologist, jazz pianist, and author Keith Sawyer studied with world-famous creativity expert Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi Sawyer's book offers a wealth of easy-to-apply strategies and ideas for anyone who wants to tap into their creative power. An integrative introduction to the theories and themes in research on creativity,

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this book is both a reference work and text for courses in this burgeoning area of research. The book begins with a discussion of the theories of creativity (Person, Product, Process, Place), the general question of whether creativity is influenced by nature or nurture, what research has indicated of the personality and style of creative individuals from a personality analysis standpoint, how social context affects creativity, and then coverage of issues like gender differences, whether creativity can be enhanced, if creativity is related to poor mental or physical health, etc. The book contains boxes covering special interest items including one page biographies of famous creative individuals and activities for a group or individual to test and/or encourage creativity, as well as references to internet sites relating to creativity. Breaks down the major theories about creativity but doesn't restrict to a singular perspective Includes extensive citations of existing literature Textbook features included (i.e., key terms defined)

How to systematically engineer creativity from nothing and unleash your inner ingenuity. Creative thinking is surrounded by so much mystique and myth. It's time to cut through the static and learn how to become an idea-generating machine. Spark your imagination, improve your thinking, and solve problems. Rapid Idea Generation will take you inside the mind of Leonardo da Vinci, famous polymath of the Italian Renaissance - but it won't stop there. You will

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learn not only about da Vinci's thinking techniques, but the general building blocks of creative thought, and habits and other famous creatives. We go through a huge amount of thinking tools to expand your mind and see the world differently. This book is a thorough handbook on what it means to think different and get outside the box. This book is 100% applicable in solving the problem you have in front of you, or generating an idea out of thin air. Stop relying on inspiration or motivation and make thinking outside the box second nature. Peter Hollins has studied psychology and peak human performance for over a dozen years and is a bestselling author. He has worked with a multitude of individuals to unlock their potential and path towards success. His writing draws on his academic, coaching, and research experience. Think like one of history's most famous creatives - and then some.

- Learn the biology and psychology of the creative mind.
- Building blocks for creativity - from da Vinci and on.
- 7 techniques to literally thousands of ideas.
- Creativity routines and habits of household names.
- How to instantly switch to perspectives and angles. Less theory, and more of exactly how to become a prolific creative like the masters.

This liberating book refutes the myth that creativity is a gift limited to a select few. Ray and Myers provide simple guidelines for unlocking the creative essence in all of us. 25 drawings.

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Employees who possess problem-solving skills are highly valued in today's competitive business environment. The question is how can employees learn to deal in innovative ways with new data, methods, people, and technologies? In this groundbreaking book, Arthur Van Gundy -- a pioneer in the field of idea generation and problem solving -- has compiled 101 group activities that combine to make a unique resource for trainers, facilitators, and human resource professionals. The book is filled with idea-generation activities that simultaneously teach the underlying problem-solving and creativity techniques involved. Each of the book's 101 engaging and thought-provoking activities includes facilitator notes and advice on when and how to use the activity. Using 101 Activities for Teaching Creativity and Problem Solving will give you the information and tools you need to: Generate creative ideas to solve problems. Avoid patterned and negative thinking. Engage in activities that are guaranteed to spark ideas. Use proven techniques for brainstorming with groups. Order your copy today.

In a tech-dominated world, the most needed degrees are the most surprising: the liberal arts. Did you take the right classes in college? Will your major help you get the right job offers? For more than a decade, the national spotlight has focused on science and engineering as the only reliable choice for finding a successful post-grad career. Our destinies have been reduced to a caricature: learn to write computer code or end up behind a counter, pouring coffee. Quietly, though, a different path to success has been taking shape. In *YOU CAN DO ANYTHING*, George Anders explains the remarkable

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power of a liberal arts education - and the ways it can open the door to thousands of cutting-edge jobs every week. The key insight: curiosity, creativity, and empathy aren't unruly traits that must be reined in. You can be yourself, as an English major, and thrive in sales. You can segue from anthropology into the booming new field of user research; from classics into management consulting, and from philosophy into high-stakes investing. At any stage of your career, you can bring a humanist's grace to our rapidly evolving high-tech future. And if you know how to attack the job market, your opportunities will be vast. In this book, you will learn why resume-writing is fading in importance and why "telling your story" is taking its place. You will learn how to create jobs that don't exist yet, and to translate your campus achievements into a new style of expression that will make employers' eyes light up. You will discover why people who start in eccentric first jobs - and then make their own luck - so often race ahead of peers whose post-college hunt focuses only on security and starting pay. You will be ready for anything.

In this trailblazing book, internationally renowned business creativity expert Michael Michalko shows how creative people think—and how to put their secrets to work for you. To create this book, Michalko researched and analyzed hundreds of history's greatest thinkers—from Leonardo da Vinci to Pablo Picasso—and then brought their techniques into the modern home and workplace. The follow-up to the popular THINKERTOYS, which sold over 80,000 copies.

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Unlock unlimited streams of creativity with this comprehensive handbook, packed with personalized advice, practical tools, useful templates, and a tried-and-tested problem-solving model.

How did Kevin O'Connor help create DoubleClick, the innovative marketing technology company...two software companies...dozens of products...and now the “disappearing” DVD, a product that will turn the home video market on its head? Sheer brilliance? While O'Connor is very smart indeed, he credits his success to applying Thomas Edison's famous saying that “genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.” In other words, the breakthrough product or service that is the result of sheer genius alone is the exception. Great ideas that form the basis of new companies or that can make a hero of someone toiling in the corporate world are within reach of us all. “But wait,” says O'Connor, “ideas are cheap.” Just as important is doing something with them—a process that will turn the best ideas into something that people need. In other words, O'Connor argues convincingly, innovation can be systematically forced. The Map of Innovation is O'Connor's step-by-step approach to devising lucrative new products and services and bringing them to market, through a process that has proven itself time and again in many different industries. Too often, people trying to innovate focus on things that don't matter or waste their time trying to find answers to questions that can't be answered. O'Connor shows why the map of innovation centers on getting right the five make-or-break fundamentals: creating a

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large number of viable ideas; picking the right idea to pursue; creating a highly focused strategy to bring the idea to market; getting the money to fund the strategy; and hiring the best people. With Kevin O'Connor, the proof of the value of methodical innovation is in the pudding. He helped start companies that have employed thousands of people and created billions in shareholder value. Anyone can get lucky once, but for success to strike three times and to include many successful products, there has to be a method and map, and any company, big or small, working on any product or service can benefit from O'Connor's time-tested tactics.

"A fascinating account of human experience at its best." -- Mihály Csízentmihály, author of *Flow* Creativity has long been thought to be an individual gift, best pursued alone; schools, organizations, and whole industries are built on this idea. But what if the most common beliefs about how creativity works are wrong? *Group Genius* tears down some of the most popular myths about creativity, revealing that creativity is always collaborative -- even when you're alone. Sharing the results of his own acclaimed research on jazz groups, theater ensembles, and conversation analysis, Keith Sawyer shows us how to be more creative in collaborative group settings, how to change organizational dynamics for the better, and how to tap into our own reserves of creativity.

Rethink the Way You Think In hindsight, every great idea seems obvious. But how can you be the person who comes up with those ideas? In this revised and expanded

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edition of his groundbreaking Thinkertoys, creativity expert Michael Michalko reveals life-changing tools that will help you think like a genius. From the linear to the intuitive, this comprehensive handbook details ingenious creative-thinking techniques for approaching problems in unconventional ways. Through fun and thought-provoking exercises, you'll learn how to create original ideas that will improve your personal life and your business life. Michalko's techniques show you how to look at the same information as everyone else and see something different. With hundreds of hints, tricks, tales, and puzzles, Thinkertoys will open your mind to a world of innovative solutions to everyday and not-so-everyday problems.

In a book poised to become the bible of innovation, a renowned creativity expert reveals the key to the creative process-"borrowing". As a former aerospace scientist, Fortune 500 executive, chief innovation officer, inventor, and software entrepreneur, David Kord Murray has made a living by coming up with innovative ideas. In *Borrowing Brilliance* he shows readers how new ideas are merely the combination of existing ones by presenting a simple six-step process that anyone can use to build business innovation:

- **Defining**-Define the problem you're trying to solve.
- **Borrowing**-Borrow ideas from places with a similar problem.
- **Combining**-Connect and combine these borrowed ideas.
- **Incubating**-Allow the combinations to incubate into a solution.
- **Judging**-Identify the strength and weakness of the solution.
- **Enhancing**-Eliminate weak points while enhancing strong ones.

Each chapter features real-life examples of

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brilliant borrowers, including profiles of Larry Page and Sergey Brin (the Google guys), George Lucas, Steve Jobs, and other creative thinkers. Murray used these methods to re-create his own career and he shows readers how to harness them to find creative solutions.

This newly revised and updated companion for every innovator, innovation team leader, operations manager and corporate change agent presents, in an easy-to-use format, more than 50 tools and techniques for identifying innovation opportunities, generating new and unusual ideas and implementing new solutions.

A guide designed to encourage creative thinking in business offers techniques, hints, and tricks for generating ideas and offers dozens of success stories. This "forum for self-exploration" ("New York Times") offers a unique perspective on career success that builds on unlocking personal creativity to achieve professional goals.

This inspiring and inventive guide teaches readers how to develop their full potential by following the example of the greatest genius of all time, Leonardo da Vinci. Acclaimed author Michael J. Gelb, who has helped thousands of people expand their minds to accomplish more than they ever thought possible, shows you how. Drawing on Da Vinci's notebooks, inventions, and legendary works of

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art, Gelb introduces Seven Da Vincian Principles—the essential elements of genius—from curiosità, the insatiably curious approach to life to connessione, the appreciation for the interconnectedness of all things. With Da Vinci as your inspiration, you will discover an exhilarating new way of thinking. And step-by-step, through exercises and provocative lessons, you will harness the power—and awesome wonder—of your own genius, mastering such life-changing abilities as:

- Problem solving
- Creative thinking
- Self-expression
- Enjoying the world around you
- Goal setting and life balance
- Harmonizing body and mind

Drawing on Da Vinci's notebooks, inventions, and legendary works of art, acclaimed author Michael J. Gelb, introduces seven Da Vincian principles, the essential elements of genius, from curiosità, the insatiably curious approach to life, to connessione, the appreciation for the interconnectedness of all things. With Da Vinci as their inspiration, readers will discover an exhilarating new way of thinking. Step-by-step, through exercises and provocative lessons, anyone can harness the power and awesome wonder of their own genius, mastering such life-changing skills as problem solving, creative thinking, self-expression, goal setting and life balance, and harmonizing body and mind.

The bestselling author of "A Whack on the Side of the Head" now interprets the aphorisms of Heraclitus as springboards to creativity.

How do you create your own definition of success—and reach your unique potential? Building a fulfilling life and career can be a daunting challenge. It takes courage and hard work. Too often, we charge down a path leading to “success” as defined by those around us—and ultimately, are left feeling dissatisfied. Each of us is unique and brings distinctive skills and qualities to any situation. So why is it that most of us fail to spend sufficient time learning to understand ourselves and creating our own definition of success? The truth is, it can seem so natural and so much easier to just do what everyone else is doing—for now—leaving it for later to develop our best selves and figure out our own unique path. Is there a road map that will enable you to defy conventional wisdom, resist peer pressure, and carve out a path that fits your unique skills and passions? Robert Steven Kaplan, leadership expert and author of the highly successful book *What to Ask the Person in the Mirror*, regularly advises executives and students on how to tackle these questions. In this indispensable new book, Kaplan shares a specific and actionable approach to defining your own success and reaching your potential. Drawing on his years of experience, Kaplan proposes an integrated plan for identifying and achieving your goals. He outlines specific steps and exercises to help you understand yourself more deeply, take control of your career, and build your capabilities in a way that fits your passions and

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aspirations. Are you doing what you're really meant to do? If you're ready to face this question, this book can help you change your life.

The modern skillset for creative problem-solving, compiled by four industry experts

Contains idea-triggering questions based on nine principles of creativity (substitute, combine, adapt, magnify or add, modify, put to some other use, eliminate, rearrange, reverse). Designed to stimulate creative thinking about problems and generate new ideas in business or other settings.

Do moments of inspiration have to be few and far between—or can you develop the ability to access your deepest creativity at any time? Michael Gelb has discovered the missing key that allows genius to flourish: an open, reliable connection to the vital life energy we all possess. “The practices for accessing energy have been developed for thousands of years in yoga, martial arts, and Chinese medicine,” Gelb says. “I’ve asked today’s greatest living masters of these arts to contribute their most effective practices for cultivating creative energy—in a way that the average person can do in 20 minutes or less.” With *Creativity On Demand*, Gelb teaches a series of time-tested practices to clear blockages and open the flow of creative energy, then reveals how these techniques can be integrated with the renowned creative mindset and creative

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process tools he's taught to individuals and organizations worldwide. Join him as he shares potent secrets for: Mastering creative energy—discover qi, the “fire of genius,” and learn movement-based practices to amplify it Mastering creative mindset—how to break out of conventional thinking and fear-based limitations to unleash your potential Mastering the creative process—guidance to help you channel your creative energy, refine your ideas, and translate inspiration into reality Effective, easy-to-learn techniques and strategies for accessing the power of qi and creating a reservoir of creative energy you can rely on when you need it “Creative energy is a resource that doesn't get depleted when you use it,” teaches Michael Gelb. “Rather, the more you access it, the stronger it becomes. With an investment of less than half an hour a day, you'll discover that within a few months you've significantly strengthened your core creative energy.” Here is Michael Gelb's most powerful work yet on unlocking our potential to innovate, achieve, and access our Creativity on Demand.

Shows readers how to liberate thinking and expand imagination by learning to synthesize dissimilar subjects, think paradoxically, and enlist the help of the subconscious mind.

This encyclopedia of inventions provides the dates, the details and the stories of how we gained some of the things we now take for granted. Every possible

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invention is covered from the simple paperclip to the irritating parking meter. Francis Glebas, a top Disney storyboard artist, shows how to reach the ultimate goal of animation and moviemaking by showing how to provide audiences with an emotionally satisfying experience. Directing the Story offers a structural approach to clearly and dramatically presenting visual stories. With Francis' help you'll discover the professional storytelling techniques which have swept away generations of movie goers and kept them coming back for more. You'll also learn to spot potential problems before they cost you time or money and offers creative solutions to solve them. Best of all, it practices what it preaches, using a graphic novel format to demonstrate the professional visual storytelling techniques you need to know.

From the bestselling author of Thinkertoys, this follow up brings innovative creative thinking techniques within reach, giving you the tools to tackle everyday challenges in new ways. Internationally renowned business creativity expert, Michael Michalko will show you how creative people think—and how to put their secrets to work for you in business and in your personal life. You don't have to be a genius to solve problems like one. Michalko researched and analyzed hundreds of history's greatest thinkers across disciplines—from Leonardo da Vinci to Pablo Picasso—to bring the best of their techniques together and to teach you

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how to apply them in your own life. Cracking Creativity is filled with exercises and anecdotes that will soon have you looking at problems and seeing many different solutions.

How to solve critical business challenges by generating more and better ideas Every organization needs a steady supply of fresh, relevant ideas, but managers can't just lock teams in a room with a mandate to brainstorm and hope for the best. Ideation is both a science and an art, and when group ideation processes are well-designed and well-facilitated, anyone can generate an abundance of creative, implementable options—not to mention true breakthroughs—for any business need. Drawing on his work leading high-stakes ideation sessions at over 300 organizations, Mattimore explains the how, what, and why of successful ideation and provides a framework for when and how to apply various techniques. Identifies Mattimore's top ideation and innovation techniques (including "brainwalking," finding inspiration in worst ideas, the unexpected effectiveness of wishing, and more) and lays the groundwork for you to invent successful processes of your own Tells real stories of ideation at work in Mattimore's consulting business, including how Ben & Jerry's named a new strawberry fudge flavor, how Thomas' invented a new, healthier English muffin that now accounts for over 30% of its sales, how IBM transformed the culture of

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one of its divisions to make it more innovative, and many more Mattimore is a world-class expert on applied creativity and an innovation process consultant to over one-third of the Fortune 100 companies; he and his team have helped create and launch products and services worth over \$3 billion in annual US retail sales With a diverse range of tested methods, Idea Stormers is the indispensable guide for developing original, practical solutions to even the most intractable-seeming creative challenges.

New York Times bestselling author Jeffrey Gitomer brings you the very foundation of Napoleon Hill's self-help legacy: his long-lost original notes, letters, and lectures--now compiled, edited, and annotated for the modern reader. Twenty years before the publication of his magnum opus Think and Grow Rich, Napoleon Hill was an instructor, philosopher, and writer at the George Washington Institute in Chicago, where he taught courses in advertising and sales. These rare, never-before-seen lectures were thought to be lost to history. Until now. Given exclusive access to the archives of the Napoleon Hill Foundation, Jeffrey Gitomer has unearthed Hill's original course notes containing the fundamental beliefs in hard work and personal development that established Hill as a global leader of success and positive attitude. In Truthful Living, Gitomer has captured Hill's foundational wisdom for the twenty-first century. These easy-

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to-implement real-world strategies for life, family, business, and the bottom line prove as energizing and inspiring today as they were nearly one hundred years ago.

This volume shows how we can all gain from imitating George Washington, whose ideas of dignity and respect for his fellow peers began with these rules and were followed diligently throughout his life, ultimately shaping both his outward demeanor and his nation.

This text explores classic works such as the Song of Songs to reveal the cultural energies that ancient mythmakers sought to corral in their creations. Leeming suggests that myth and factual knowledge do not negate, but complement each other.

Cracking Creativity The Secrets of Creative Genius Ten Speed Press

This Is A New Release Of The Original 1916 Edition.

Why isn't everyone creative? Why doesn't education foster more ingenuity? Why is expertise often the enemy of innovation? Bestselling creativity expert Michael Michalko shows that in every field of endeavor — from business and science to government, the arts, and even day-to-day life — natural creativity is limited by the prejudices of logic and the structures of accepted categories and concepts. Through step-by-step exercises, illustrated strategies, and inspiring

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real-world examples, he shows readers how to liberate their thinking and literally expand their imaginations by learning to synthesize dissimilar subjects, think paradoxically, and enlist the help of the subconscious mind. He also reveals the attitudes and approaches that diverse geniuses share — and anyone can emulate. Fascinating and fun, Michalko's strategies facilitate the kind of lightbulb-moment thinking that changes lives — for the better.

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