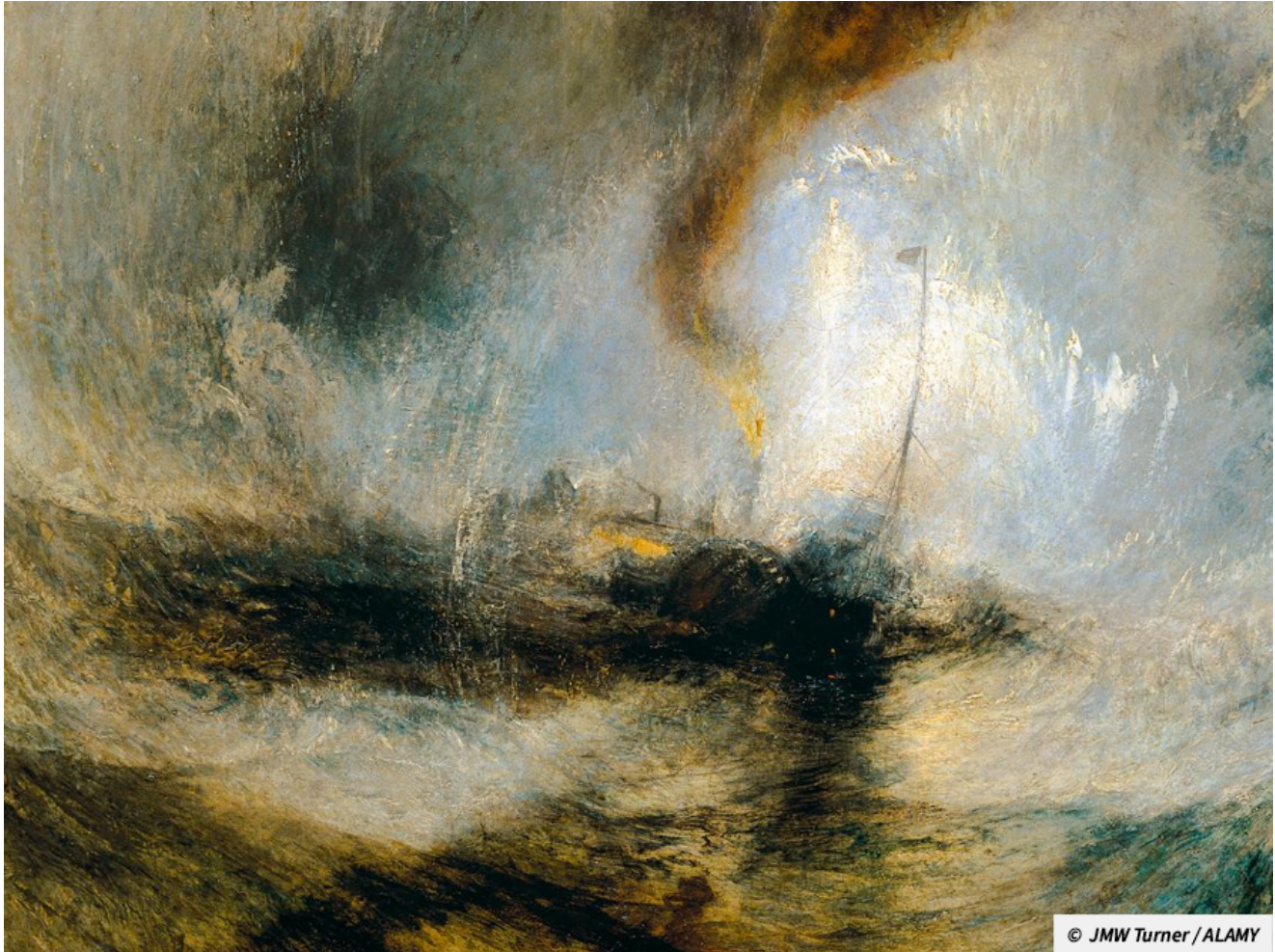


How to win friends and have more good ideas

5 March 2024

ID theday.co.uk/how-to-win-friends-and-have-more-good-ideas-4



Creative prodigy: JMW Turner was one of the Romantic movement's foremost artists.

Is imagination a muscle? One author says anyone can have a brilliant imagination — if they work hard enough.

What's happening?

What is the most dangerous thing you can think of? The answer is probably not **imagination**.

Today, most people say that imagination is a good thing. But for a big part of history, many said that imagination was dangerous.

Find out more

Now, in a **fascinating** book, writer Albert Read says that anyone can have a good imagination. He says imagination is a great thing. It can make you successful, bring you closer to other

people and help you change the world.

Just as you can go to the gym and train your body, Read says you can train your mind. Some of the training is simple: going for a walk and reading lots to learn new things.

In the past, some people would have disagreed with Read. They thought that good ideas were gifts from the gods, not something that humans created.

And at other times, people thought that imagination was simply not needed. The scientist **Descartes** said it was "in no way necessary to my **essence**".

Is imagination a muscle?

Some say

Yes! You can train yourself to be lots of things, and imaginative is one of them.

Others think

No! You can learn about more things, but you cannot learn imagination. Some people just have better ideas than others.

Some people say

"My imagination makes me human and makes me a fool."

Ursula K Le Guin (1929 – 2018),
American author

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you see yourself as an imaginative person?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What makes an idea a good idea?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure from this story.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Your friend asks you for help to become more imaginative. What do you suggest?

5. Express

What do others believe? - "You cannot learn to have good ideas." Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Write a short story. Try to make it as imaginative as possible. What are the best ideas you can come up with?

Glossary

Imagination - The ability to have new ideas or make mental pictures of things you have not seen.

Fascinating - Very interesting.

Descartes - René Descartes was a 17th Century French philosopher, scientist and mathematician.

Essence - The basic nature of a thing.