made a fortune after creating mind mapping as a means of mental literacy

He first wrote a book, but then he was working with British GP Lewis Arrowsmith. Arrowsmith wanted to give his patients a way to manage their thoughts and work more effectively. This led to the development of the Mind Map, a tool for organizing ideas and information in a visual, hierarchical format. Mind Maps were first introduced in 1974, and since then they have become a popular technique used in schools and businesses worldwide.

Mind Maps are diagrams that use a combination of words, images, and symbols to represent concepts. They help in organizing ideas, improving memory, and enhancing creativity. Mind Maps are particularly useful in managing complex information and in brainstorming sessions. They can also be used for teaching, research, and personal development.

The Mind Map is a powerful tool that can be used in a variety of settings. It can help in organizing thoughts, improving memory, and enhancing creativity. It can also be used for teaching, research, and personal development. The Mind Map is a simple yet powerful tool that can help you in managing your thoughts and ideas.
After the passing of Tony Buzan in April 2019, the media, both online and offline, were inundated with tributes.

My difficulty in preparing this tribute issue, is that many stories and reflections stories and reflections conveyed the same message. I have decided to select a number of stories that convey our feeling of deep loss. I have also collected stories from important people in Tony's life.

Having said this, there will be a number of key people in Tony's life that were not able to convey their grief at this difficult time. In August, Tony's dear and long time friend, Raymond Keene OBE, organised a dinner for close friends and Tony's favourite restaurant, L'Escargot, in Soho London.

The dinner was an opportunity to recognise many people for their contribution to global mental literacy, something so very close to Tony's heart.
It was at this dinner that the first Tony Buzan Medals were presented. Also presented at the dinner was the official Guinness Book of Records certificates awarded to Mr Guo from Guangzhou, China. He accepted the certificates on behalf of winners from the previous World Memory Championships 2018.

The annual Avicenna Prize was also awarded during the evening. Finally, the Brain Trust’s Brain of the Year was also awarded.

I think Tony would have been delighted with the proceedings.

The next evening, the Tony Buzan Tribute dinner was celebrated at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London. Around 150 guests celebrated Tony’s life, coming from all parts of the globe.

Tony’s long standing friend, Raymond Keene OBE has written an insightful article on his friendship with Tony. A great read.

The Times newspaper wrote a full page article on Tony Buzan, an honour usually reserved for high profile people such as the late Nelson Mandela. This is a brilliant article summarising Tony’s life.

At this point, I must mention that there were many very close friends of Tony Buzan who were too upset to put into words their love and friendship with Tony. I appreciate and respect this sentiment.

Many more articles follow, I hope you enjoy them.

The next issue of Synapsia will follow soon, sadly without the brilliant direction of Tony Buzan.

The photograph below is the quintessential Tony. It was the last photograph I took of Tony, only weeks before his death. I visited Tony at his home in West Wycombe. He had bought a special “welcome” card featuring a white swan, significant in both our lives.

I am happy to share this photo of Tony.
Synapsia.net

TOTAL HITS from April 2015 to March 2019

1,040,286
Tony Buzan Tribute Dinner

by Marek Kasperski, Editor in Chief

The Tony Buzan Tribute was held in London in August 2019. The tribute to Tony was held over two nights, Friday the 23rd of August at the wonderful L’Escargot Restaurant in Greek Street, Soho, London. The second dinner was at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London.

The Friday night dinner was primarily for presentation of awards, in particular the Tony Buzan Medal, and the second dinner on Saturday night was a celebration of Tony’s life, with guest speakers asked to regale the 150 plus guests with their experiences.

L’Escargot Restaurant

L’Escargot Restaurant is the oldest and most glamorous French restaurant. Located in Greek Street, Soho, London, it is one of my favourite restaurants in London.

Tony Buzan and I had dinner there shortly before his death, spending many hours talking about a book we were writing.

The restaurant numerous floors with the awards dinner occupying a lavishly decorated room on the first floor. The room was set up beautifully, with great
care and attention to detail. It was to herald a wonderful evening.

Many awards were bestowed during the evening to people who have made significant contributions to causes close to Tony’s heart.

An investiture ceremony was held for the Companionate for the White Swan. Two recipients were awarded the Officer’s Cross and the Commander’s Cross.

Another significant award to be bestowed was the Brain Trust’s “Brain of the Year” award.

To qualify for this award an individual need to satisfy the Awards Committee that they satisfy the following criteria.

1. The candidates must be pre-eminent in their field
2. The candidates must have made a major new contribution to their field in the preceding year.
3. The candidates must have contributed major new creative developments to their field of endeavour.
4. The candidates must have made a notable effort to educate others in their chosen discipline.
5. The candidates must have integrated the principle of Mens sana in corpore sano (a healthy mind in a healthy body) in their lives.
6. The candidates must have exhibited persistence and stamina over time.
7. The candidates must have demonstrated a general cultural awareness.
8. The candidates must have demonstrably contributed to society.
9. The candidates must have demonstrated a concern for humanity.

Left: Aurora Zhang and Petrina Kasperski
10. The candidates must be active and known on a global level.
11. The candidates must be outstanding role models for those in their fields and for youth in general.
Mr. Guo certainly meets all those strict criteria, and is a worthy recipient of the Brain Trust...

“Brain of the Year”.

Left: Raymond Keene and Guo Chuanwei, winner of “Brain of the Year”
Left: Lester He, Chris Day, and Guo Chuanwei, receiving the official Guinness World Records from the 2018 WMC

Left: Tony Buzan Medal recipient Sheikh Mohammed Bin Salem Al-Harbi, with Raymond Keene OBE and Alexander Keene
Tony Buzan's Memorial Tribute was held at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) on Saturday the 24th of August. Over 150 guests attended the event.

Left: Tony Buzan Medal recipient Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Afridi, with Raymond Keene OBE and Alexander Keene

Left: Tony Buzan Medal recipient Prof. Bikha Ram Devrajani, with Raymond Keene OBE and Alexander Keene
Left: Tony Buzan Medal recipient Lester He, with Raymond Keene OBE and Alexander Keene

Left: Tony Buzan Medal recipient Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ali Khan, with Raymond Keene OBE and Alexander Keene
Left: Raymond Keene OBE explaining the origin of the Tony Buzan Medal.

Left: Petrina Kasperski, Marek Kasperski, and Brian Clivas, receiving the Companion of the White Swan
Dinner at the L'Escargot Club.

Left: Mr. Guo Chuanwei and Don Morris
Dinner at the L'Escargot Club.

Left: Mr. Guo Chuanwei and Marek Kasperski
Left: Marek Kasperski, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Salem Al-Harbi, and Dr Ian Zhu

Guests at the L'Escargot Club
Guests at the L’Escargot Club

Left: Mr. Guo Chuanwei, 2019 Brain of the Year recipient and Marek Kasperski
On the 24th of August, 2019, Tony Buzan's brother, Barry Buzan, was the host for Tony's official Tribute dinner.

The dinner was held at the magnificent Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London.

Over 100 guests were invited from all over the world, with people travelling as far as Pakistan, Liechtenstein, China, Japan, Australia, and many more.

The evening began in a reception room with guests gradually arriving and meeting people they have not see for a long time. The mood in the room was happy and positive. It was such a delight to see so many good friends all in the one place. My wife Petrina and I scarcely had enough time to talk with everyone we knew.

We were particularly delighted to see Murray Craig Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court. Petrina and I last saw Murray when we received the Freedom of the City of London in 2016. It was astounding that he remembered us, given the number of people receiving the Freedom of the City of London.
The Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London

The magnificent interior of the Royal Automobile Club
The dress code for the evening was black tie, however, guests were encouraged to wear anything that makes them happy. Tony loved to dress for an occasion and he would have loved the outfits on display on the night. Some very bright interpretations of black tie were a wonder to behold.

A formal dinner followed, punctuated with a number of people who knew Tony well, who regaled the guests with stories of their experience of Tony.

As with many events for the Brain Trust, Professor Frederick Trowman-Rose graciously accepted the task of Master of Ceremonies. His first introduction was the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) Chairman and host, Mr. Stephen Meyler. His support for the tribute dinner was most welcome. At this point, I should mention that Tony loved this Club, and visited the RAC frequently. In the last month of Tony’s life, I accompanied his to the RAC five times for training and meals.

The next person invited to speak was Raymond Keene OBE, one of Tony’s very close friends and partners in the Brain Trust. Ray spoke very warmly of his relationship with Tony. It was Raymond Keene and Tony Buzan who conceived the idea of having a World Memory Championship, which is now the world’s
Raymond Keene addressing the guests
Another close friend of Tony Buzan is His Serene Highness, Prince Philipp von und zu Liechtenstein. Invited to speak after Raymond Keene OBE, Prince Philipp gave us a humourous insight of Tony, with some cryptic references. I can imagine Tony would have been smiling and laughing through the entire speech. In the photograph of Prince Philipp above, you can see Professor Frederick Trowman-Rose, carefully overseeing proceedings, ensuring no one triggered the dreaded “5 minute” bell. Prince Philipp finished with perfect timing.

Next to speak was His Highness, Prince Mohsin Ali Khan. As with all the speakers invited to share their thoughts and experiences with Tony Buzan, Prince Mohsin’s speech was from a different and personal perspective. I was asked to speak next. As I look out across a room...
full of Tony's dear friends, I thought any person in the room could easily have given a unique and interesting speech about this amazing man.

I have the sad distinction to be the last person to speak to Tony. He passed away just minutes after our conversation. It was only weeks after his passing that I remembered something that Tony said to me some time ago. He said that when people say goodbye, do they pass “the test”? I asked, “what is the test?” Tony explained to me that “the test” is if your final words when saying goodbye to someone turns out to be the last words you ever say to that person, will you be happy with what you said? I am happy that our last words were warm, happy, and upbeat.

Dr Guo Chuanwei, a friend of Tony's who travelled from Guangzhou, China, to attend this dinner. His carefully chosen words, initially in very good English, finishing in Chinese Mandarin, once again stamped a consistent theme about Tony Buzan, genius, brilliance, warmth, caring, and love. Dr Guo was assisted with his speech by interpreter Aurora Zhang, who effortlessly translated Mr Guo’s speech into English.

The final words about Tony Buzan were appropriately spoken by his brother, Professor Barry Buzan,
His Serene Highness, Prince Marek
Barry Buzan took a different tack on remembering Tony. He posed a variety of questions, letting the audience reflect on those questions. This led to a lovely interaction between Barry Buzan and the guests.

Everyone has different views on how they remember a person, so rather than reflecting on his views of his brother, his speech encouraged everyone to think of their particular memory of Tony. It was a brilliant way to finish the formalities.

My final observation of the tribute dinner was that people were reluctant to leave. Tony Buzan was the common denominator for the assembled guests, but I was amazed how easily everyone conversed.

Tony would have been so pleased.
Tony Buzan, who died of complications following a heart attack, in John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, was originally motivated by the question of “who is intelligent?” During his time at junior school the young Tony was struck by the anomaly that one boy, who had a tremendous knowledge of nature, repeatedly failed in school tests on his favourite topic, because of an inability to express himself.

Unsurprisingly the nature expert was consigned to the bottom of the class, in spite of the fact that Tony knew that this boy’s knowledge was far superior to his own. The authorities had decided who was intelligent and who was not. Tony experienced this as grotesquely unfair and it eventually led him to three beliefs.

The first was that an operations manual was needed for the human brain, not its medical functions, but the way it works. The next was that every human has a spark of genius within, but the problem was to ignite it. Tony’s third and final insight was his invention of the Mind Map, a tool for recording thoughts, plans and general creativity, which bypassed conventional academic norms. The Mind Map was predicated on radiant thinking, spreading out from a dominant central concept, utilising colour, dimension and association. The Mind Map also revealed itself as a powerful memory aid.

Tony went on to write over 140 books, translated into 40 languages, as well as lecturing around the world and making numerous TV programmes about his ideas. He was an enthusiastic player of mental games, such as chess and go, and a near Olympic standard rower on his favourite stretch of The Thames at Marlow, where he often skulled with Sir Steve Redgrave.

The perception that the Mind Map also promoted memory, drew Tony towards the foundation of the world memory championship at London in 1991. This was won (for the first of eight times) by the dyslexic Dominic O’Brien.

Growing from just eight entrants in 1991 to over three hundred entrants, the 2018 world championship was won by a 14-year-old Chinese girl, Wei Qinrun. Both victors exemplified Tony’s belief that everyone possesses that immortal spark of genius, which merely awaits the right flame to set it in motion.
Tony Buzan at his favourite restaurant, The Compleat Angler, in Marlow

Tony Buzan at the Hong Kong World Memory Championships
Having known Tony for thirty years, and written his biography, what struck me most about him was his inner child. It was clear that his own school experiences had marked him deeply and left an indelible impression. I have already remarked upon his early questioning of who decided who was intelligent or not, and throughout the rest of his life Tony repeatedly positioned himself as the headmaster of the human race. Indeed, one of his numerous unfinished books at his death was an ambitious report card on the human race, marking humanity out of 100 on such topics as the environment, education, peace, economics, race and gender relations ad infinitum.

Another was an exploration into animal intelligence, a subject which constantly absorbed him. His speciality was the brain, so how could insects with micro brains achieve such feats of organisation as, for example, evinced by ants and termites, or arachnids such as the Portia spider? Indeed, for a man who wrote over 140 books during his lifetime, an entire library of as yet unpublished writings still awaits an enterprising publisher.

Unsurprisingly Tony found himself particularly at ease with kids and one of his triumphs was the TV series “In Search of Genius”, in which Tony, on camera, took a class of delinquent comprehensive school children and converted them over six programmes into model pupils. In contrast, at the elite end of the spectrum, Tony once received a mysterious phone call inviting him first class, no expense spared, to a desert hideout in Bahrain; sworn to secrecy, Tony was greeted by non other than Michael Jackson, who offered Tony £100,000 to teach mental literacy, mind mapping, memory, speed reading, to the megastar’s offspring.

In spite of his impressive catalogue of published manuals on the working of the brain, what Tony truly craved was recognition as a poet. Particular favourites were his friend and poet laureate Ted Hughes, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Shakespeare’s Richard II, especially those lines where John of Gaunt advises his son Bolinbroke, to regard his banishment by the King as his volitional banishment of the King.

Tony's enduring legacy will, however, be those generations of readers of his books and attendees at his lectures who found unsuspected depths within themselves and were inspired to maximise what Tony frequently referred to as that sleeping giant, the human brain.
Tony Buzan at the World Memory Championships in Shenzhen, 2017
Armed with a sheet of white paper and a fistful of coloured pens, Tony Buzan would sit in his office overlooking the Thames at Marlow, Buckinghamshire, “mind mapping” his day. An affable figure who always looked crisp and dapper, Buzan was a familiar name to anyone who had tried mental self-improvement. He presented a popular television series, produced a number of self-help books and delivered rousing lectures almost evangelical in tone. Some saw him as a guru, transforming their way of thinking and working. With receding hair, a toothy grin and a ready sense of humour, he popularised the idea of mental literacy with mind mapping, a thinking technique that he said was inspired by methods used by Leonardo da Vinci and Albert Einstein, as well as by Joseph D Novak’s ideas of “concept mapping”.

Others thought him little more than a good salesman, exuding confidence and backing up his “pseudoscience” with an impressive and seductive range of facts and figures. “The trade in crank business books has long been recognised as a subculture with its own logic and language, best avoided if you value your faculties,” reported The Guardian in 2000 when reviewing his book Sales Genius: A Master Class in Successful Selling, which was co-written with Richard Israel. Some went farther in their criticism, accusing him of “employing the language of the snake-oil salesman”.

“You’ve got to have pictures and images to make a connection’

Undeterred, the ever-smiling Buzan continued doodling his way to a fortune. Mind mapping, which he sometimes referred to as a “Swiss army knife for the brain”, was needed because of modern-day information overload, he said. “Most current methods
Hand manager who tools Queen on tour
Gerry Shekells
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Obituaries

Tony Buzan
Educational consultant and Olympic rowing coach who made a fortune after creating ‘mind mapping’ as a means of mental literacy.

‘The Times’ article
of handling information are based on the 19th-century linear, verbal and mono-tonic model. This worked comfortably for the industrial age. It does not work comfortably in the age of knowledge, creativity and intelligence."

In creating a mind map Buzan would put a central thought, such as “trip to Europe”, in the middle of a piece of paper. He would then draw branches off to related ideas in different directions, each with little branches of their own. Emphasising key words with double lines, colours, images or pictures “gives a more perfect reflection of what goes on inside your head”, he said, adding that it was difficult to get a picture when notes are written in single lines and all look the same. “You've got to have pictures and images to make a connection.”

His visual system for remembering the planets started with Mercury, which is closest to the Sun. He would then draw small droplets of the metal mercury. Venus, who is next door, playfully tosses some droplets of mercury at her neighbour, Earth, but she misses and they go on to mar the next planet, Mars, whose feisty temper comes to the attention of its neighbour Jupiter, a fun-loving god who wears a T-shirt with the colourful letters S, U and N; which stand for Saturn-Uranus-Neptune, the next three planets. At the very end would be a small, barking dog: Pluto.

Robert Crampton, a Times columnist, went to see Buzan in 2003 and declared him a hero. “He showed me some of his techniques, and I enjoyed them and could see they might be useful,” reported Crampton. “But it was the man rather than his method that caught my imagination. If I analyse what it was I so admired in him, that might give me some clues about the sort of person, I am trying to become.”

Mind mapping became big business. Buzan’s work
has been translated into dozens of languages and his lectures were delivered to audiences ranging from Soweto schoolchildren to multi-national corporations.

By 1993 he was reportedly charging up to £30,000 a day (about £61,000 today), insisting that it was a matter of “them calling me”. His list of callers wanting seminars for senior management on subjects such as how to “achieve peak performance” was said to include Goldman Sachs, IBM and Rank Xerox. For those who shared his dream of maximising their incomes, Buzan advised making a colour drawing of their peak sales vision. “For example, if you want to earn £100,000 in sales over the next 12 months, draw a picture of a person standing on top of a mountain holding a flag with £100,000 on the flag to symbolise your sales.” It could then be stuck on the wall and checked daily to remind the user how far they had come. Or not.

Anthony Peter Buzan was born in Palmers Green, north London, in 1942. His mother, Jean, was a gerontologist and his father, Gordon, an electrical engineer. He had a brother, Barry, who is emeritus professor of international relations at the London School of Economics and who survives him; they co-wrote The Mind Map Book (2000).
At the age of seven, Buzan was struck by how a friend whom he considered to be the brightest boy at his school —Whitstable School for boys in Kent —was in the lowest stream. The friend could identify any bird by studying its flight pattern and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of nature, yet he was deemed to be of poor intelligence.

It was here, Buzan said, that he realised society had a narrow view of what constitutes intelligence. In 1954 the family moved in search of a better life to Vancouver, in western Canada, where Tony was educated at Kitsilano Secondary School. He captained the school chess team in the British Columbia schools' championship and enjoyed rowing and other sporting activities. From there he went to study psychology, English, mathematics and science at the University of British Columbia, where he also wrote for the student newspaper, before spending 1965-66 as a postgraduate student at Simon Fraser University, also in British Columbia.

Soon he was having the sort of troubles familiar to students the world over. "I couldn't remember what lecturers said," he recalled. "Even when I did remember, by the time I got to an exam it had all gone." He went to
the library for a book on how to use the brain. “The librarian sent me to the medical section. I didn’t want to take [the brain] out, I wanted to know how to use it.”

His first job involved chickens, but soon he was working with Mensa, the high IQ society, which led him back to Britain as the editor of Mensa’s international journal while also teaching children with learning disabilities for the Inner London Education Authority. Buzan’s work came to the attention of the BBC, which invited him to make a series of ten programmes entitled Mind Maps. They were broadcast in 1973 with an accompanying book, Use Your Head (1974). It was followed by more than 80 books and the formation of the Brain Club, the Brain Trust and Memoriad, an “Olympics for the brain”, and the World Speed Reading Championships.

He was also a coach for the British rowing team at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul and continued occasionally to put in some hours on the water at his local rowing club.
In 1993 he told The Straits Times that he had “a serious lady friend” and they planned to have a baby in the near future. No more was heard on the subject. He is survived by his long-term companion, Lorraine Gill, an artist whose work he collected.

Asked to describe what interested him outside his professional life, Buzan replied: art, “because it feeds my eyes, mind and soul”; physical activity, such as “rowing, swimming, running and aikido”; animals and animal intelligence, which provided “constant bemusement, entertainment, amazement and awe”; astronomy, which is “a constant humbling perspective on my and our place in that Universe”; and friends, “for every reason imaginable”.

He thought society had a narrow view of what constitutes intelligence

In Head First! (2000) Buzan explained how readers could achieve ten types of intelligence. Under the heading “Personal Intelligence” he suggested that readers try this test: “Write your own obituary, being as honest as possible. If you like what you have written you have a solid foundation on which to build your future. If you found that you would have liked your life to be more interesting and exciting, do something about it.”
Portrait of Tony Buzan by Marek Kasperski
There’s been an extraordinary outpouring of emotional response to the passing of Tony Buzan. Many of us are experiencing shock, grief and deep sadness at the loss. Tony’s energy and charisma were such that he seemed indefatigable and indestructible.

It’s difficult to accept that he is no longer physically with us. Besides personal affection, there’s something deeper happening. Like Leonardo, Tony was a catalyst, a vehicle and an inspiration for the creative power of the universe - a power that shines within us all.

If you consider the best coach, mentor or teacher you’ve ever had chances are that person helped you feel that you were capable of more than you had previously imagined. Tony had a special gift for helping everyone - from under-privileged children and factory workers to senior executives and members of various Royal families - feel that they could be more brilliant than they imagined. He did this by looking into people’s eyes and seeing the light, the brilliance, the genius within, and then he backed it up by developing the curriculum of mental literacy that allows people to measurably improve memory, reading, study skills and creative thinking.

“Piper Luxmore” was one of Tony’s alter egos. He used this as a name over the years, sometimes inscribing it in books, and it was even part of one of his email addresses. It expresses his passion for bringing more light to the world. The best way to honour and celebrate Tony’s life and legacy is to bring more light to your life and to others.

In our home the period between April 15, (Leonardo’s birthday) and May 2 (the date of his passing) is a special time when we celebrate the legacy of the supreme Uomo Universale. (We do this year round
but even more so in the Spring). This year we are extending this observance to June 2 - what would have been Tony's 77th birthday. And we'd like to share some of the ways we are honouring his spirit with the hope you will find them to be healing, and ideally that they will deepen your commitment to share the creative light with the world.

The simplest commemoration is a beautiful candle that we are illuminating every day during this time.

Anyone who stayed at Tony's guest room in Hampstead Way and then later at Bachelor's Cottage knows that he loved to wake up to Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite. This is wonderful wake-up-music and you may especially enjoy it during this time.

In 1994 Tony, Vanda North and I were all presenting at the YPO University in Yokohama, Japan and we had the pleasure of listening to Ben Zander conduct the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's 9th. Ben, who later became part of our corporate leadership Academy faculty, handed out phonetic versions of the German lyrics to the choral finale and we all sang it together. It was a peak experience. Later we had many lively conversations with GM Keene and others about what the lyrics really are meant to be (Ode to Joy or Ode to Freedom). In either case, Tony sang his heart out as we all did; so honour and celebrate his life, joy and freedom, by playing this masterpiece and singing it aloud!

One of the places where we were teaching together had a piano that was played many times by Chopin. A student on our course was a gifted pianist and he played a number of Chopin pieces for us. Mercifully, Tony died in his sleep. Before you retire in the evening you can listen to a piece that soothes the soul and eases the transition to sleep - Nocturnes by Chopin, especially as performed by Rubinstein.

The last time we saw Tony was at his 75th birthday party in London. Mezzo-Soprano Deborah Domanski sang Handel's Ombra mai fu for him and he shared that it was the most exquisite singing he'd ever heard. This aria was performed in the world's first radio broadcast that was engineered by one of the former members of Thomas Edison's laboratory. And, of course, along with crediting Leonardo, Tony enthused
about the inspiration he received in the creation of Mind Mapping from Edison’s notebooks. In memory of Tony, Deborah is making a special recording that we will post soon.

Tony loved music but he probably loved poetry even more. His spirit will smile when you teach a friend to mind map or introduce a child to mnemonics, but it will absolutely soar if you read them a poem — start with the works of Ted Hughes, John Carder Bush, or Tony himself.
Snowdrop
by Ted Hughes

Now is the globe shrunk tight
Round the mouse’s dulled wintering heart.
Weasel and crow, as if moulded in brass,
Move through an outer darkness
Not in their right minds,
With the other deaths. She, too, pursues her ends,
Brutal as the stars of this month,
Her pale head heavy as metal.
Tony was also passionate about visual arts especially the work of one of his dearest friends, Lorraine Gill. Tony felt that her art expressed the essence of his oeuvre. He wrote,

“One of the remarkable qualities of Lorraine’s art is that in exhibitions it speaks to people of all ages, cultures, educational levels and race. I have seen 5 year old children and physical labourers “work out” the grammar of her paintings and make comments upon them that are more insightful than those made by other artists or art critics.”

Tony’s multidimensional interests were such that one could devote many lifetimes to exploring the realms that fascinated him. His love of nature, of animals, his passion for rowing on the Thames and so many other interests, but to celebrate his life, consider creating a Buzanian feast. We lead Da Vinci dinner events for friends and clients around the world. The Buzanian event includes all the elements of the Da Vinci dinner - sharing music, poetry, art appreciation, fine wine - but with a few playful quirks and menu choices that friends of Tony will immediately recognize.
Begin with fine Champagne and drink a toast to Tony and Global Mental Literacy. Recommended first course is smoked salmon. On more than one occasion when we were staying at the Grand Hotel in Stockholm and at other venues around the globe, Tony had room service show up at my door with smoked salmon and a bottle of Champers, including for breakfast on my last morning there before flying back to the USA.

Cheers!

Main course should be a game bird or massive slab of almost raw meat -Tony always insisted that his meat be “Bleu”- Extra Rare. As another close friend commented:

“He liked his meat carved directly from the quivering flesh of the still living beast and then passed by a single match at the distance of 100 yards.”

This should be accompanied by a baked potato and a green veg.

(If you’re ordering this in a restaurant you must grill the staff about the provenance of every item and send them back into the kitchen if they don’t know exact answers. After putting the staff through this ordeal you give them a huge tip and sign copies of your books for them and their children.)

To actually dine a la Buzan – begin by creating furrows on the surface of your potato and let the butter melt through them, but then eat your veg first, very slowly. Then mindfully devour your buttered potato. Now you will have a piece of almost raw meat solo on your plate. Pick it up with your fingers (both hands) and without the slightest self-consciousness, eat it while savouring the full range of your senses. (It was always fun watching other diners and staff react to this performance/ritual). Of course, you’ll be enjoying the finest red wines and when the main is done, you’ll have some vanilla ice cream with hot chocolate fudge sauce followed by a cognac and Cuban cigar.

Then challenge someone to a game of chess or go. And complete your night by putting on some disco music and dancing, by yourself, with choreography inspired by “Saturday Night Fever” and moves from Chuck Norris movies.

Then get up early, teach a full day seminar on Mental Literacy and do it all again, into Eternity...

Michael J Gelb & Tony Buzan, circa 1994
Mind Mapping Grief

by Nkandu Beltz

The Grief Mind Map Process

One of the many things I learned from Tony was always finding a way of learning how to do things. We talked about learning how to learn.

During the last few days, a lot of things went through my mind. The things I should have said, things I should have done, the books we should have been working on and all the people that need to learn from the brilliant Tony Buzan. My mind could not stop thinking the massive loss the world has just had. Millions of people have been impacted and I felt sad for myself and for humanity.

As I sat at the kitchen table struck with grief and guilt. Then Erik said to me, “Mind Map him”. I looked at him and I said what? He said, “Mind Map your grief”. I have used the Mind Map technique for many things, my business plans, my mining projects, marketing campaigns, speaking engagements, the television shows and many other things.

I had never used Mind Mapping as a grief processing tool but I could see that this was going to work. I could see the picture clearly and what I needed to do. It is a new way of processing information and what was going on in my mind.

Even though the world keeps on going, Tony will never be forgotten, the more I put colors and words on my Mind Map, the more I realized that his work will continue for many years to come.

The most important thing is how we continue and build on the foundation he has created. Every branch
on the map lead me to a new realization. In everything we do, we must teach, for we are teachers. We are the lucky ones who had the gift to learn first-hand from him and for us to serve humanity in an enriched and better way, we must forever continue to learn and to teach others.

Mind Mapping Tony’s death does not mean it has taken the sadness away, it has helped me cope with the loss and to accept that my dear friend is physically gone but his legacy still lives on.

The process has helped me really appreciate him and his work better than before.

I have a sense of gratitude for him, for his life and his work.

During the Mind Mapping Grief Process, I had moments of sadness and moments of gratitude. I could see that the world is perfectly balanced and that nothing is missing.

Tony had a way of making every person he met feel
welcome, unique and loved, but most of all, he was a total embodiment of the African Philosophy of Ubuntu, “I am because we are”. He understood this perfectly well and practiced it in all areas of his life.

This philosophy describes the oneness of humanity. It is the realization that we are all somehow connected. Tony lived his best life, he did what he came here to do and given more time, he could have touched millions of people more.

But he has left you and me some very sacred and useful tools that can be used to change so many people’s lives.

My question to you is, how will you use the tools you have been given by Tony and how will you combine those tools with your natural talents?

All this for me was realized during the Mind Mapping process.

You may be asking, Nkandu, how does one Mind Map a Grief Process?

First, I started with Mind Mapping Tony Buzan. Tony in the center of the paper, add linear curves, fill the in and extend them. This process draws out so many aspects and accomplishments of his professional life but I took the angel of him as a friend, teacher and mentor.

Using his teaching on symbols, assimilation, retention, recall, applications and structures, I was able to get into details.

I asked myself, how can my current work build on the foundation he has created for us?

I mapped out when and where I could add value to those around me, not only in educational settings but in my social and everyday life.

This took me to the delivery methods, engaging with my family and clients, relationships and preferred outcomes for my life.

Using as many colors as possible and an occasional butterfly, my Mind Map helped me process grief and have a tear of gratitude for a genius friend who used his head brilliantly.

He was right when he said, “just like the unlimited use of paper clips, you can use Mind Maps on anything”.

Floreant Dendritae and Synaptic Love
Left: Nkandu Beltz and Tony Buzan
Obituary

from The Herald - Scotland

Tony Buzan

Educational consultant who created the Mind Map learning technique.

Born: June 2, 1942;
Died: April 13, 2019

TONY Buzan, who has died aged 76, was an educational consultant and leading authority on the brain who created the mind map technique, a popular tool to improve memory and learning.

The technique – which Buzan once described as like a Swiss army knife for the brain – uses seemingly complicated illustrations to encourage creative thinking and improve the memory. The mind map is usually a number of ideas linked to a central concept.

The theory is that the maps are a reflection on paper of the brain’s internal thought processes and therefore make it easier to grasp information and memorise facts.

Born in Palmers Green in London, Buzan said he first noticed while still at school that some people could be intelligent but not necessarily do well in traditional exams. When he was 12, the family moved to Vancouver in Canada where Buzan excelled in school sports.

He first began to develop his ideas about memory and learning when he was studying psychology, English and mathematics at the University of British Columbia. He said that he noticed that the students who did well did not necessarily have the neatest notes - quite the opposite in fact: their notes tended to be messy and covered with doodles, scribbles and key words.

“The great thinkers, including Da Vinci and Montessori,
always drew images and arrows and lines in their notes,” he said. “When I started using keyword notes, bigger letters, with colour and arrows, it allowed my brain to speak to myself with a lot less clutter. It was as if I’d been driving all my life with my windscreen caked in mud, and suddenly I could see clearly.”

After graduating from British Columbia in 1964, Buzan worked in a number of jobs including as editor of the journal of Mensa, the high IQ society. However, he was also developing his ideas on mind-mapping further and by the early 1970s, he had risen to wide prominence, thanks partly to a 1973 BBC series Use Your Head in which his ideas were explored in more depth. He also published several books with the BBC which sold more than three million copies. There were many other books, tapes and audio-visual aids.

Buzan also became an adviser to international corporations and some schools began to use his techniques. On a visit to Scotland in the 1990s, he said teachers were using the wrong techniques to get the best out of their pupils. “They shift vast amounts of money from one curricular item to another, with
different emphases on homework and core subjects, yet they all fail to focus on the child’s ability to learn, and to remember and create from what it has learned. They argue about ‘an hour’s homework every night’, when they should be arguing about how that homework is done.”

Buzan’s work in the field of human intelligence was prolific, not only writing some 80 books in over 40 different languages, but in bringing individuals together from many academic disciplines.

Although he was an expert in many academic and creative fields it was his skill in explaining the most complex of theories in easy and accessible ways that endeared him to his students and colleagues. As Buzan delved deeper into the twin disciplines of learning and memory he believed he had uncovered universal truths in how humans think, remember, create and evolve intellectually - a distillation he referred to as Human Language.

As his business grew, Buzan developed a world-wide network of instructors that promoted his goal of Global Mental Literacy. He founded the Brain Trust Charity, which supports research into and support for initiatives connected with mental performance. He also established the World Memory Championships in 1991; the latest event will take place in Wuhan in China in December.

Speaking about his work, Buzan said his ideal was a world in which everybody was aware of the potential of their mental and physical abilities. “In other words

Left: Tony Buzan and Marek Kasperski at the 2017 World Memory Championships
they know about their extraordinary potential, about the magnificence of their mind, what a miracle their body is and what an incredible gift they have,” he said. “And they use that for their own personal self-development and to help others.”

Over the years, Buzan has worked as a consultant for many companies including Microsoft, IBM, Walt Disney, Encyclopaedia Britannica, British Telecom, and the Royal Mail.

Raymond Keene, co-founder of the World Memory Championships, said of Buzan: “Tony spent his life pushing the boundaries of human thought and intelligence, ever inquisitive and ever evolving. From his ground breaking BBC series Use your Head in the 1970s to his latest project collaborating on Mind Maps for Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi’s new book Exam Warriors, his joy in sharing the gift of expanded intelligence was infectious and inspiring.”

Buzan’s brother was Barry Buzan, emeritus professor of international relations at the London School of Economics and a collaborator with his brother on the book The Mind Map Book (2000); he survives him.

Left: Raymond Keene and Tony Buzan
The 2019 World Memory Championships will be held in Wuhan, China on the 5th to 9th of December 2019.

Details are as follows:

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Welcome by Raymond Keene OBE, Abstract Images, Binary Numbers, and Random Numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Names &amp; Faces, Speed Numbers 1, Historical/Future Dates, Speed Numbers 2, Random Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Random Words, Spoken Numbers (3 trials), Speed Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Closing ceremony</td>
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World Memory Championships will be held in Wuhan, China on the 4th to 8th of December 2019