Lockdown Poetry

George the Poet – Coronavirus: The Power of Collaboration

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3YnWgZ-0Ds

This week we have a slightly different focus for our writing – poetry. We would like you to try and write a poem that touches upon your experiences over the last few months. We realise that the contents of these will vary from person to person as everyone's experience, although similar in many ways, has been unique to you.

Monday – INSET Day

Tuesday – Analysing examples

Wednesday – Brainstorming

Thursday – Construction of poem

Friday – Editing and publishing

Tuesday – Analysing examples

Many people turn to poetry to express feelings they have and ideas they want to share. Unsurprisingly, during lockdown, this has been no different. Below are some examples of poems people have written around this topic.

Read through the examples and make note about the following:

- What do you like about the poems?
- Do any of them express feelings that you have had?
- What is different about the poems? (Ideas, rhyming, number of stanzas, form etc.)
- Is there a poem that you like the most? Why?

Example 1:

The Upside of Lockdown – Kate Williams

Through my window I can't see

Hectic crowds, hurrying to work,

Kids, like me, off to school,

Traffic trundling slowly down the road,

Aeroplanes crossing the sky.

Through my window I can't see

Anything I usually see -

Or used to, till recently.

Just flitting birds

And the odd butterfly,

And the clear, blue, aeroplane-free sky.

Tranquillity -

That's what I see:

Lockdown's upside.

Lucky me.

Example 2:

Corona by William Sue

Some say its beer some say it's a virus
So let me tell you some tips for the coronavirus
You cannot stay in bars or clubs
and think about going to pubs

First it was good we were kept off school
But now it seems we were all fools
Now I'm staying in quarantine
And spent my birthday as a teen

I paced the house back to back
And saw this shiny black plaque
Now the trees are bright green
This is life with Covid-19.

Example 3 – by Sion Actur:

The impossible is no longer a distant thought
escaping reality in not something that can be bought
loneliness is becoming the normality
luxuries we once knew are merely a vanity
our weakness and our pain
makes us wonder if we were ever sane
the earth has spoken and we are listening
the stars are awake and are glistening
we will once again, go back to the past
ignore this experience and pretend it never last
generations to come, will recall our expressions
our failures now, will be a history of out transgressions

humans now have the courage to forget
but let's be sure this is not our biggest regret
we are a dot on this deadly path
be kind and caring and always make sure you laugh!

Example 4:

'note to self' by Colleen Keating

laughter of friends on zoom
is no more than a polished reflection
of its cosy
aura in real life

top priorities
when this isolation is over
warm greetings hugs
family
to touch
to touch again

stay closer than 1.5 metres
smell the vibrance of youth
milky scent of a grandchild

crowd in as many concerts
art galleries, picnics in parks
walks by the sea

note to self
never take your freedoms for granted
ever again

Example 5:

Lockdown by Devon Simkin-Samways (8 years old!)

Lockdown is a scary time,
So I thought that I could write a rhyme:
To put a smile on lots of faces
From around the world in lots of places.

Lots of time with my family,
Fills me with enormous glee.
Home school teaching from my mum,
With my brother who's a pain in the bum!

Missing my bike rides and playing out,
It really makes me want to shout.
Nannies and grandads can't see me,
But safety really is the key,

Watching movies on Disney Plus,
Stops us making such a fuss.
Eating ice-cream in the garden,
Makes us burp but we say pardon.

Missing our friends and all our teachers,
Watching YouTube to see who features.
In the franche videos that set us challenges,
Hope no-one fails and ends up in bandages.

One day when this will come to an end,
Hopefully we won't have driven mum round the bend,
We will look back and cherish the thought,
Of the lessons we learnt and the ones we were taught.

Wednesday – Brainstorming

Today we would like you to create a viewpoint with ideas of what you would like to include in your poem – these could be facts, thoughts, feelings, observations... the list goes on!

When writing it's important to value your own thoughts and feelings but sometimes we can still get stuck for ideas. Here are some ideas that might help:

- List things you've done or observed during your time in lockdown – even the boring things like brushing your teeth!
- List what you have found: different, new, fun, scary, weird – why did they make you feel that way?
- What have you been looking forward to?
- What have you missed the most during lockdown?
- What have you enjoyed most?
- Who have you been listening or speaking to and how? Facetime/texting/phone calls? What have your conversations been about?
- Have your feelings changed throughout this period? Maybe they went up and down? How did this make you feel?
- Borrow ideas from the poems we read yesterday!

Remember, not all poems have to rhyme, but if you think you might like yours to include a rhyming pattern you may also want to start matching up rhyming words. Below are some examples that you can use or just have as inspiration for your own rhymes.

Brainstorming viewpoint:

Lockdown poem

Thursday – Construction of poem

Today we are going to put our ideas together to try and construct a poem. Remember the freeing thing about poetry is that, often, the normal rules of writing don't apply.

You can structure your poem how you like, but, if you would like some help, chose one of the options below.

Option 1: Poem with 3 stanzas, each 4 lines each – this can rhyme but it doesn't have to.

Option 2: Free verse poem – one big stanza and you can chose how long (maximum 20 lines). Remember, this can have no rhyming, some rhyming or every line rhyming.

Option 3: A set of haikus! Haikus are short, Japanese poems which are structured around syllables.

1st line: 5 syllables

2nd line: 7 syllables

3rd line: 5 syllables

As these are quite short, if you chose this option, we could like you to try and construct a minimum of 3 haikus (you can do more) which are separate but complement each other.

Friday – Publishing

Poetry is often presented quite artistically. You can use the blank paper below to write out your finalised poem neatly or you might want to use some card or another writing material. Feel free to add a border or illustrations which you feel add to the poem you have written!