

THEATRE CENTRE

Online Writing Course

Writing Poetry – The Power of Metaphor and Personification

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Please use this worksheet with the related video.

Exercise 1: List Making

Write a list based on things in your room by answering the questions below.

TOP TIP: Your answers don't have to be factual. Use your imagination and think outside the box.

What is the brightest thing?

What is the hottest or coldest thing?

What is the quietest or loudest thing?

What is the most magical or mysterious thing?

What gives you the most hope?

Exercise 2: Questioning

Read over your answers from Exercise 1 and choose the most interesting item. Imagine this item could talk.

Write down 5 unusual questions you would want to ask that item. Remember you don't need to know the answer to these questions.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Exercise 2. Questioning

You have 5 unusual questions for your item. Now, write down 5 responses to the question: 'What does your chosen item dream of?'

Your answers can be a mix of meaningful and silly. It's completely up to you.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Exercise 3: Furniture Game

Choose someone you care about or someone who is famous (e.g. your mum, Beyoncé, Stormzy, Greta Thunberg)

With that person in mind, write down answers to the questions below. Can you add alliteration, rhyme or hyperbole (exaggeration) to your answers?

What would they be if they were an item of furniture?

What would they be if they were something in the air?

What would they be if they were something in the sea?

What would they be if they were something in this room?

What would they be if they were an item of clothing / clothing accessory?

What would they be if they were an item of food or drink?

What would they be if they were a famous landmark?

What would they be if they were a song or a book?

Read through your answers above. You now have a poem!

Exercise 4: Take Away

Choose your favourite exercise from today (Exercise 2 or 3) and write a new poem which you can dedicate and give to someone you care about.

Or write a short story inspired by one of the exercises we have explored, and poems you have written, today.

Remember the best poetry makes us look at things in a new way.