

CREATIVE WRITING IN NATURE

WILDWRITING!

WITH SARAH ACTON/ BLACK VEN POETRY

Follow these easy and fun creative writing activities in your garden, through your window, or out on a walk, using nature and the 'wild' outdoors for inspiration.

For all ages and abilities. All you need is a pen and paper.

We'd love to read your wild words so please share these via email.

The poems for inspiration is a list of favourite poems on each theme. It's not essential to read these to take part but can help you get in a creative mood.



Email us:

wildwriting@activateperformingarts.org.uk



activate

in partnership with

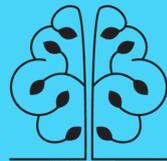
 Stepping
into
nature



Poems for
inspiration

**Fireflies in the
Garden**
by Robert Frost
Daffodils
by William
Wordsworth

activate



Stepping
into
nature

www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

ACTIVITY (20 mins)

PLANTS, FLOWERS AND INSECTS

- Sit outside or next to an open window for a few minutes with your eyes closed, breathe...
- Open your eyes and write a list of everything you can see and hear.
- Focus on one plant, flower or insect and really look at it, **what is it like to see the world from another point of view?**
- Write for 5 minutes non-stop in the voice of the plant/flower/insect.
- Now write a 6 line poem or story starting with the words "Here come(s)..."

**TIP: don't worry about what you write
just go with ideas as they come....**



"...to dwellers in a wood, almost every species of tree has its voice as well as its feature."

Thomas Hardy

Poems for inspiration

Listening to Trees
by Mandy Haggith
The Song of Wandering Aengus
by W.B Yeats

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

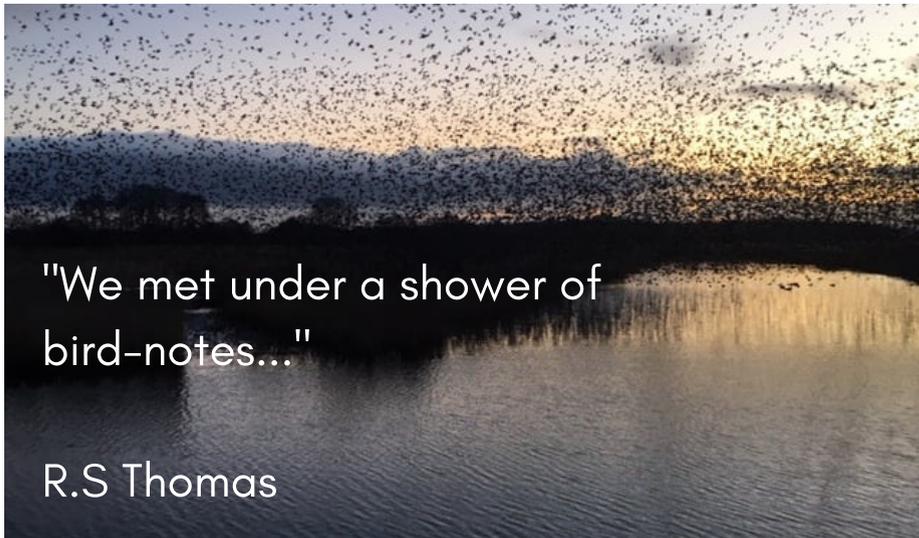
ACTIVITY (10 mins): TREES

- Sit outside or next to an open window for a few minutes with your eyes closed, breathe...
- **Can you hear or see any trees?** Make a list of tree memories or stories/any associations of trees in your life.
- Write about a tree you know or have known, one you love/hate/fear/feel strongly about...
- See if your writing wants to be a poem or a story. Read aloud to help make cuts, and write with all of your senses to awaken your reader's senses.

TIP: try not to judge or censor yourself, the aim is to put pen to paper, making and creating...



www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry



"We met under a shower of
bird-notes..."

R.S Thomas



Poems for inspiration

The Blackbird of
Glanmore

by Seamus Heaney

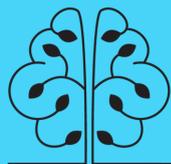
The Dipper

by Kathleen Jamie

Thrush

by John Fuller

activate



Stepping
into
nature

www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

ACTIVITY (15 mins): BIRDS

- Sit outside or next to an open window, can you hear any birdsong?
- Pick a bird you know and like, and list everything you know about it (facts and myths)...
- Now make another list of things you don't know but would like to know, then use your imagination to make up the answers.
- **What can birds teach us?**
- Use your bird as the title to a short 100 word story about a bird meeting another character. Include details from both lists and let at least one character speak. Let your bird help deal with a real or imaginary dilemma.
- Finish with your answer to the prompt question.

TIP: be specific with details

"If you will stay close to nature, to its simplicity, to the small things hardly noticeable, those things can unexpectedly become great and immeasurable."

Rainer Maria Rilke



Poems for inspiration

Weathers

by Thomas Hardy

The Warm and The

Cold by Ted Hughes

Stopping by Woods
on a Snowy Evening

by Robert Frost

activate



Stepping
into
nature

www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

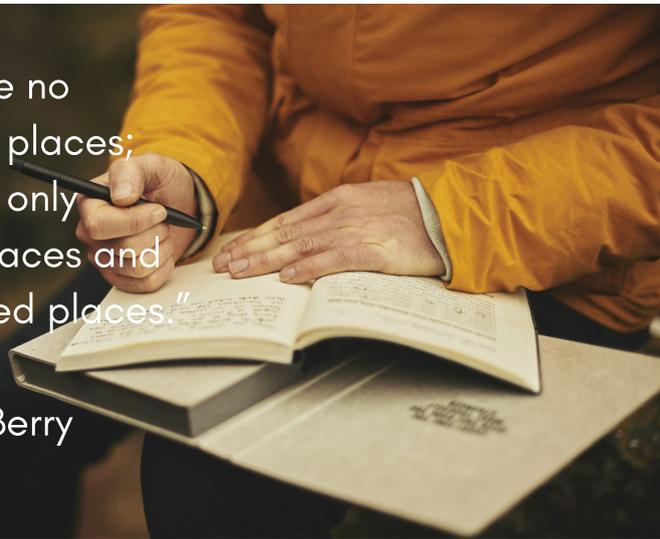
ACTIVITY (10 mins): WEATHER

- Sit outside or next to an open window, or go for a walk...
- **How does weather affect the mood of the place where you are?** Show us in words..use your senses to feel the answer.
- Make a list of different types of weather and different shades of colour then pair these at random e.g lime green and rain.
- Write a 7 line poem or short story using your best colour and weather pairing.
- Set it in the place you are sitting in now then show us what is happening inside and outside the mind of a character/your mind.

TIP: creativity is playful exploration...it doesn't have to be perfect

"There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places."

Wendell Berry



Poems for inspiration

Spring

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Autumn

by John Clare

The Seasons in North Cornwall

by Charles Causley

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

ACTIVITY (10 mins): SEASONS

- Sit outside, next to an open window, or go for a walk...
- **What is your favourite season, why?**
- Write about your garden or view, focusing on one season. Use all of your senses.
- Cross out repetitions of 'I feel' 'I see' 'I hear,' but stay in the present tense and weave the fragments together.
- Now imagine this place in other seasons. Pick out key details, try to use surprising imagery e.g using kitchen utensils, artist colour palettes or human characteristics to give feelings and emotions a visual image, showing how it feels to be there.

TIP: to play with imagery, make word associations using your own memory, experiences and observations

activate



Stepping
into
nature

www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry

"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

Rachel Carson



Poems for inspiration

Summer Dawn

by Spike Milligan

Silver

by Walter de la Mare

Sun Rising

by John Donne

TIPS AND IDEAS

WILDWRITING!

ACTIVITY (20 mins): DAY AND NIGHT

- Sit outside or next to an open window, or go for a walk...
- **How does this time of day make you feel?** Use all of your senses plus your sense of being in the shared world to answer...look around, listen then stop and write notes every few minutes.
- How would this place feel at night? Write down anything that comes to mind.
- Now think about dawn, write a morning love song to celebrate the rising sun and include someone you love. Use a repeat phrase from your earlier notes to frame the start or end of each verse.

TIP: let yourself be drawn into the unknown...

activate



Stepping
into
nature

www.activateperformingarts.org.uk/black-ven-poetry