

To the Core poets 13th May 2020

To the Core poets,

How you all doing? Hope you're well. So, have any of you made a start with writing a poem for the **'View From My Window'** exhibition?

I do hope you'll give it a go. It's a lovely project to be part of, and an online audience awaits! ☺

Perhaps you've written a first draft, sometimes going back to your piece after a week or so can offer you a real perspective. So if you just left it, I encourage you to go back to it. Often with the distance of time, that line you weren't sure about just leaps out at you and you'll know whether to keep or delete!

So here is this week's poetry session. As ever, dip in and out of the exercises as and when you please.

So get creative and enjoy! ☺

Keep strong, keep safe and keep writing!

Sara

VE Day UK marking 75th anniversary of end of WW2 in Europe

8 May 2020

Extracts of Winston Churchill's VE Day speech have been broadcast to the nation, as part of the commemorations for the 75th anniversary.

The commemorations began with a flypast over London by the Royal Air Force display team the Red Arrows, while RAF Typhoon jets flew over Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast.



Then, a piper played at the war memorial near Balmoral, where Prince Charles and Camilla laid flowers and led the country in silent remembrance.

Left at the memorial with Camilla's *bouquet* was a *message* paying tribute to her father, Major Bruce Shand - who served with the 12th Royal Lancers during the war - and his regiment "who fought so *bravely* to give us *peace*".

A gun *salute* from Edinburgh Castle marked the beginning and end of the *silence*, but crowds were absent from many war memorials as people *reflected* at home.

Later, although large street parties were out of the question, some still managed to get out the bunting for a socially *distanced* celebration.

PROMPT



- **Imagine you found a message in a bouquet of flowers** what does it say?
Who is it from? Who is it for?

OR

- **Write a message paying tribute or remembrance to someone** found in a bouquet of flowers.
- **Perhaps a message sent to someone you miss during the current lockdown.**

OR

Use some of the words below to write your creative piece

Display
Flowers
Silent
Message
Arrows
Peace
Salute
Red
Brave
Reflect
Distance
Home

Prayer for Victory by Major Richard Diespecker



'Prayer for Victory'
by Major Richard
Diespecker
(excerpt)

*In honour of VE Day we offer this
extract of Major Diespecker's poem,
made famous in Canada and US in
1945 to raise funds for the Red
Cross.*

Give us the strength to take Victory,
Quietly and with gentle hands,
And mould a great new friendship...
To take it like a garden,
Ripping the weeds
From the rich, black earth,
Burning them in the fires of Truth,
So that never again
Will there be a Hitler or a Mussolini,
A Himmler or a Goebbels;
Never again a blitzkrieg;
Never again the bitter treachery
Of Pearl Harbor;
Or the tragedy of Coventry;
Or blood running in the hills of
Bataan.
God give us strength
To set our own house in order...
To open our doors in friendship,
To set all men free;
To live, not alone,
With the door locked,
And the windows barred,
Watching through the shutters,
The bitter struggles of the little
people.

Richard Diespecker (1945)

PROMPT

- Read the poem above, **note** the *tone of voice*, the sense of accomplishment, defiance, defeat.
- Write a piece about a time when you felt you achieved, accomplished or defeated an obstacle, perhaps defied adversity.

Or

Use some of the words below to write your creative piece

Strength
Quietly
Hand
Friendship
Gentle
Rich
Earth
Locked
Truth
Garden
Little
Watching
Bitter
Pearl
Hills
Fire
Free
Shutters

'We'll Meet Again' Vera Lynn lyrics

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/samsmith/todiefor.html>

We'll meet again
We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day
Keep smiling through,
Just like you always do
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

We'll meet again,
Don't know where
Don't know when.
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do,
'Til the blue skies
Drive the dark clouds far away
So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know.
Tell them I won't be long.
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go,
I was singin' this song.

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

PROMPT

- **Read/listen to the song – feel the emotion in her voice – she was living through a time of war – her song offered hope and inspiration to the soldiers in the trenches.**
- **Whilst we are all in lockdown – let us hold the sentiment of the song as inspiration.**

**Meet
Sunny
Smiling
Skies
Blue
Clouds
Drive
Far
Dark
Away
Happy
Song**

Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall send 'heartfelt thanks' to Britain's postal workers



Royal Mail director of public affairs & policy David Gold holds the letter. Credit: PA

The Prince of Wales has hailed the “dedication, resilience and hard work” of Britain’s postal workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Charles addressed a letter to “Everyone at Royal Mail” and ended it with “heartfelt thanks – and a big thumbs up” from himself and the Duchess of Cornwall.

The letter was left on a bench outside the royal couple’s front door at Birkhall, Aberdeenshire, where it was collected by their local postman Neil Martin when he delivered their mail.

It stressed that the value of Royal Mail workers “has never been more important” as “many people have taken the time to write a letter, or a card, to those from whom they are separated”.

Prince Charles praises ‘dedication, resilience and hard work’ of Britain’s posties

The royal couple said: “Receiving such a personal message at this difficult and anxious time can mean an enormous amount.

“We feel sure that a very large number of these special greetings will be treasured for years to come. They may even become a valuable resource for social historians in the future.

“Postmen and postwomen are trusted figures in our local communities. They are a constant presence in an ever-changing world. For some people, they are a point of daily human contact; a friendly, familiar face.”

PROMPT

- Write a special greeting to someone that will be *treasured* for years to come, found by a historian to mark a moment in time.

OR

Use some of the words below to write your creative piece.

Heartfelt
Important
Time
Resilience
Praise
Message
Receive
Separated
Personal
Special
Treasured
Years
Valuable
Human
Contact

Little Richard: Rock 'n' roll pioneer dies aged 87



05 Dec 1932 · 09 May 2020

Little Richard's Influence on Rock and Roll Rock and roll music emerged as a part of American teen culture during the notably conservative time period in the country's history which shortly followed the traumatic events of World War II.

Notably, the genre's target audience was white teenagers, many Americans- already overwhelmed and on-edge due to the anti-communist movement inspired by the Cold War- were apprehensive about the influence that this up-and-coming style of music might have on their country's future.

America's youth openly accepted rock and roll's racially integrated culture of performers and embraced the relatively lewd nature of many songs and performances associated with the genre, much to the dismay of their elders.

In order to dance and play piano at the same time, Little Richard stood (not sat) in front of the instrument- yet another feature of his performance that was specific to him.

Little Richard aimed to gain the attention of his fans by creating an entirely original and exciting performance act. In order to do so, Richard created an image that was totally outside of society's definition of normal, respectable, and safe.

PROMPT

- Select a song title from the list below to write your creative piece.

Lifetime Friend

Dancing in the Street

By the light of the silvery moon

All Around The World

Blueberry Hill

Chains Of Love

Coming Home

Brown Sugar

Directly From My Heart

Golden Arrow

Hurry Sundown

Land Of A Thousand Dances

Cherry Red

Midnight Special

One Ray of Sunshine

Over Yonder