

July 15th 2020

Hey Core poets!

How are you doing? How's the writing going? Hope last week's prompts got you writing! And hope you're still keeping it all safe so you can share it with the group when we do all reconvene!

Well, a lot has happened over the over the past week, with the loosening of lockdown. If we were in the session, I'd be asking you all your opinion. So what do you think about it? Do you agree with the politicians? Write down your opinions as you feel them, it all contributes to building up a picture of this moment in time. ie: face masks, soon to be made mandatory, perhaps some of you are already wearing one? Note down what it's like wearing a face covering.

So, here follows this week's poetry session - get creative and enjoy!

Keep strong, keep safe and keep writing! 😊

Sara

Lewis Hamilton on F1's diversity gap:

Hamilton transcends the parameters of the race track



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton speaks during a news conference at the Red Bull Ring racetrack in Spielberg, Austria. (by Mark Sutton)

Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton feels it's his responsibility as a global star to keep pushing for more diversity in his profession and beyond.

Hamilton has spoken widely about racism in recent weeks following the killing of George Floyd - a handcuffed and unarmed Black man - by a white police officer in Minneapolis in May. Hamilton attended a Black Lives Matter march in London and is setting up a commission to increase diversity in motorsport.

Hamilton hopes his commission finds the root cause of why he's still the only Black F1 driver.

"I've got a platform, and I think it would be irresponsible of me not to utilize that to help educate people, to help educate myself and really push for accountability, across the board and within all the brands I work with, and within the industry I work in."

PROTESTING FOR CHANGE:

Hamilton's Mercedes team will be competing in an all-black car – instead of the usual silver – as a statement against racism when the season starts on Sunday in Austria.

"Because we are the world champions, we are the best team and we need to shine our light as best as possible to encourage the other teams to want to do the same. The sport needs to do more, we all need to do more."

After George Floyd's death, Hamilton spoke of his "anger, sadness and disbelief."

Wounds from the racism he has endured resurfaced.

"When this all kicked off it really struck a nerve and a chord, brought a lot of emotion up from my personal experiences, I experienced a lot of racism growing up, both at school and in my local area. Then on the race driving scene, particularly as my Dad and I were the only people of colour there."

Hamilton previously criticized F1 for staying silent on racism, prompting a flurry of support on Twitter from fellow race drivers.

"People perceived that I was targeting drivers, I really wasn't. It was targeted at the whole industry. People being silent is something I've experienced for such a long time, and now is not the time to be silent. This is a time to help spread the message. We need as many voices as we can to push for change."

PROMPT

- Read the article above. An interview with a sports person not a poet *but* note the emotion in his tone of voice. He talks of issues close to his heart, where emotions beat and that rawness makes him relatable.

“This is a time to help spread the message.”

- Write a piece about something you feel strongly about, where you are spreading a message. Think about how you choose to get your message heard. Are you telling someone what to think? Or do you simply present your thoughts on the matter at hand?

OR

- Use some of the words from the list to write your creative piece

Platform

Drive

Hope

Red

Shine

Encourage

Struck

Time

Spread

Race

Silent

Message

Long

Scene

Chord

Root

Light

Race

Emotion

Wound

Speak

Beyond

Find

Within

Change

Silver

Ring

Star



PROMPT

- Look at the image above.
- *Where* is the scene?
- *Who* is the person? It could be a character or it could be you.
- *What* are they doing?
- *Look* at the details ie; the lighting, the ambiance created, the empty venue, laptop etc
- Write a creative piece using the image.

THE STAGE

Television

Alan Bennett's Talking Heads review – still a masterclass in storytelling

23 Jun 2020



Thirty-two years on, Bennett's TV monologues have lost none of their impact.

Alan Bennett's Talking Heads monologues were first broadcast in 1988. Everything that is great about Talking Heads is here, straight away, in the first 30-minute episode. A story that deliberately grows from the trivial to the tragic, shifting from the tea table to the police station. A pitch-perfect social satire, as relevant today as it was 30 years ago.

They were so unusual, for one thing. They slapped you awake. Just one camera, one person speaking to it with four or five changes of scene. And words, just words in an actor's mouth, conjuring up a life and a world. A fully peopled, entirely credible, hysterically funny, heartbreaking world. Technically, each one was a masterclass in writing and acting. Untechnically, it came perilously close to magic.

Undoubtedly remarkable works, masterclasses in slow, structured storytelling, laced with that quintessential Bennett humour and stewed in his keen eye for social observation. They are also unlike anything else, it takes a single character talking at you for 30 minutes to realise how underappreciated stillness is on our screens, how fast and furious most TV is. Here, the slow zooms and the long silences have a magnetic power – a power augmented by the extraordinary performances at the centre of it all.

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“She said, 'He knows what I mean. Where did you get those shoes?' He said, 'They're training shoes.' She said, 'Training for what? Are you not fully qualified?' He said, 'If Jesus were alive today, Mrs Whittaker, I think you'd find these were the type of shoes he would be wearing.’ *Alan Bennett, Talking Heads*

PROMPT

So do you recall me mentioning this screenwriter last week? Well i thought i'd bring it further to your attention! The series is now finished, however, if you are interested, I believe they are available to watch via YouTube.

- Read the review above.
- Write a monologue of your own.
- Make it simple. Choose a setting ie; a bus stop, a station, a shop,
- Describe the scene including other characters you encounter,
- Pay attention to detail, these are what will bring the scene alive!

OR

- Use the words from the list below to write your creative piece.

Story
Table
Stage
Tea
Shift
Slow
Camera
Station
Head
Silence
Words
Power
Conjure
Eye
Realise
Screen
Long
Magnetic
Centre
Stillness
Laced
Heart
Close
Magic
Scene
Mouth

“A book is a device to ignite the imagination.”

“I've never seen the point of the sea, except where it meets the land. The shore has a point. The sea has none.”

“Books are not about passing time. They're about other lives. Other worlds. “

“Cloisters, ancient libraries ... I was confusing learning with the smell of cold stone.”

“You don't put your life into your books, you find it there.”

“A personality is stamped on a library just as a shoe is shaped by the foot.”

“I don't always understand poetry!”

“Books, bread and butter, once I start a book I finish it. That's always been my philosophy.”

“The best moments in reading, is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.”

“Sometimes there is no next time, no time-outs, no second chances. Sometimes it's now or never.”

“A photograph on every mantelpiece”

PROMPT

- Select a quote you like and use to write your creative piece

OR

- Use the words from the list below to write your creative piece

Ignite
Moment
Land
Photograph
Always
Chance
Stamp
Meets
Butter
Shore
Time
Shoe
Cold
Sea
Book
Meets
Hand
World
Stone
Shape