

Good morning, Year 6 – it's session 2, week 2 of English (28th April 2020)

Last week, we started working on a unit entitled 'Doors – The World of Possibility' – from a Talk for Writing Home-School unit by Jamie Thomas. We're going to continue with that this week. We will be referring back to Miroslav Holub's poem The Door today to inspire us as we have go at writing some poetry of our own. Before we start, here is that poem again, and the links to the two performances that we listened to last week...



The Door

by Miroslav Holub

Go and open the door.
Maybe outside there's
a tree, or a wood,
a garden,
or a magic city.
Go and open the door.
Maybe a dog's rummaging.
Maybe you'll see a face,
or an eye,
or the picture
of a picture.

Go and open the door.
If there's a fog
it will clear.

Go and open the door.
Even if there's only
the darkness ticking,
even if there's only
the hollow wind,
even if
nothing
is there,
go and open the door.

At least
there'll be
a draught.

Miroslav Holub, 'The door' trans. Ian Milner, Poems
Before & After: Collected English Translations
(Bloodaxe Books, 2006)
www.bloodaxebooks.com

Before we analyse this poem, listen to these two contrasting performances:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bazJvnuOLMM>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011kx3r>
- Decide which reading you prefer and jot down your response.

Now we are ready to write! Work your way through this presentation and follow the instructions for each activity.

You will need:

- Your home learning exercise book to write in.
- Some scrap paper for note taking and drafting.
- A pen and pencil
- A quiet space

Writing Activity: Go and open the door

Writing in the style of Holub, write your own poem entitled 'The Door'. You may like to use some of these sentence starters to help you:

- *Go and open the door*
- *Maybe there is a world that is upside down*
- *Maybe there is a sweet treat paradise*
- *Maybe there is a labyrinth of mirrors*

You could make the doors more interesting by having them associated with more intriguing concepts, eg:

*Through the door of hope,
I found a key that unlocked the future.*

*Through the door of hatred,
I found a bitter, twisted lie.*

Alternatively ...

Alternatively, imagine you are on an adventure and have arrived at the end of a corridor where you are faced with lots of doors of different colours. What may lie behind each one? EG:

*Beyond the purple door-
Lavender tears trickle down a pallid face.*

*Beyond the red door –
Anger and frustration swell.*

*Beyond the black door –
A rook caws,
Shadows gather.*