

AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

SIGHTS *of*
WONDER

HOME ACTIVITIES

REFLECTING
ON TRAVEL:

CREATIVE WRITING

Hello and welcome to this creative writing resource that has been designed to accompany the Barber Institute's online exhibition *Sights of Wonder*.

Travel is a central theme in the exhibition so firstly we'll be considering our relationship to travel, then we'll share some warm-up writing activities and prompts to inspire your own creative writing.

For this session you will need some paper and something to write with.

You may also want to turn your phone to silent and find somewhere comfortable to sit.

This resource is designed to last 45 minutes but you can pause the recording to work on your writing for as long as you like.

In this resource we invite you to respond creatively to a central theme in the *Sights of Wonder* exhibition- travel. The Covid19 global pandemic means that we currently find ourselves in a situation which dramatically alters our relationship to this theme.

Francis Bedford's photographs document the Prince of Wales' 1862 four month tour of The East. Following the tour, the British public could buy copies of Bedford's photographs. This gave them a glimpse of a part of the world that had only previously been portrayed through second-hand accounts and artworks such as paintings and engravings.

In the Victorian era most people would have had little or no opportunities for travel. Back in the here and now, our worlds have recently become very small, very quickly. Perhaps, we are able now more

able to see Bedford's photographs in a way that mirrors how the Victorian public may have seen these images.

Currently our small journeys, whether outside or even inside our homes, might be treasured as a chance for quiet contemplation, reflection and appreciation. With this in mind, we invite you to reflect on your new perspective on travel – how you travel now, how you may have travelled in the past and how you may travel in the future.

To help you to get started, we suggest you have a go at two short warm-up exercises. You can pause the recording whilst you complete the exercise:

1. Create a word cloud:

Set aside one minute to think about your particular travel theme – write down all the words that come into your head. This will give you a bank of words to draw from and use in your writing. After the minute you may wish to circle all the words that feel particularly relevant to you.

2. Window gazing:

Write a short description of something you can see out of your window.

Now have a go at writing in response to these prompts. There are four different prompts here- again you can pause the recording after each prompt:

1. Do you have a treasured memory of travel? Try writing a description of the memory for someone who wasn't there.

2. Try writing a poem about this memory, maybe a haiku. You could use your word cloud for inspiration.

3. Are you able to go out for walks? Try writing about the sensory stimuli you notice on your walks. Are you noticing more than usual? Try to use detail in your description of colours, shapes and smells. If you can't leave the house you might write about your garden if you have one or perhaps a room in your home.

4. Is there a place that you want to visit? This could be as simple as visiting the shops or as grand as seeing the pyramids. Can you imagine what it would be like to arrive there? What would you see? How would you feel? What would you do there? Can you write about this imaginary journey?

I hope you have enjoyed this time spent creative writing..

We'd love to read your response share your writing at #exhibitionhashtag

Music composed and performed by Jack Davies