What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Write about pictures

- Look closely at the set of *Images*.
- Write on Sentences 1 and 2, to say what could be happening in each of these pictures.
- Can you think of a story that could connect all these images?
 Try making it up and telling it to someone else.

2. Read and listen to a poem

- Read the first page of *The Great Realisation*. Challenge yourself to read the next two pages as well.
- Highlight the poem to show your favourite lines and phrases.
- Watch the performance of the poem:
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4&t=5s
- Was it as you expected it to be?

3. Write about the poem

- Read *Poetry Questions* and think about your answers.
- Write some of your answers in clear sentences.

Well done. Show the film of the poem to an adult. Ask them about it using Poetry Questions. How are their answers similar/different to yours?

Try this extra challenge

- Read 'Lockdown' by the poet laureate: Simon Armitage.
- Research to find out about what a yashka is and about Eyam,
 Emmott Sydall and Rowland Torre.
- Try to answer the *Poetry Questions* about this poem.
- This article might help you understand more about the poem https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/21/lockdown-simon-armitage-writes-poem-about-coronavirus-outbreak

<u>Images</u>



Sentences 1

What is happening? What could the story be behind this image?



Sentences 2



The Great Realisation

Tell me the one about the virus again Then, I'll go to bed

But my boy you're growing weary, sleepy thoughts about your head

Please that one's my favourite
I promise just once more

Okay, snuggle down my boy though I know you know full well the story starts before then in a world I once would dwell.

It was a world of waste and wonder of poverty and plenty back before we understood why hindsight's 2020.

You see the people came up with companies to trade across all lands but they swelled and got much bigger than we ever could have planned.

We'd always had our wants but now it got so quick you could have anything you dreamed of in a day and with a click.

We noticed families that stopped talking that's not to say they never spoke but the meaning must have melted and the work-life balance broke.

And the children's eyes grew square and every toddler had a phone, they filtered out the imperfections but amidst the noise; they felt alone.

and every day the skies grew thicker till we couldn't see the stars so we flew in planes to find them while down below we filled our cars.

we'd drive around all day in circles we'd forgotten how to run we swapped the grass for tarmac Shrunk the parks till there were none.

we filled the sea with plastic because our waste was never capped until each day when you went fishing you'd pull them out already wrapped

and while we drank, smoked and gambled our leaders taught us why it's best to not upset the lobbies or convenient to die.

but then in 2020 a new virus came our way the governments reacted and told us all to hide away.

But while we all were hidden amidst the fear and all the while people dusted off their instincts they remembered how to smile.

they started clapping to say thank you and calling up their mums and while the car keys gathered dust they would look forward to their runs.

and with the skies less full of voyagers the earth began to breathe and the beaches bore new wildlife that scuttled off into the seas.

some people started dancing some were singing some were baking we'd grown so used to bad news but some good news was in the making.

and so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside we all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind old habits became extinct and they made way for the new and every simple act of kindness was now given its due.

but why did it take a virus to bring the people back together? sometimes you've got to get sick my boy before you start feeling better

now lie down and dream of tomorrow and all the things that we can do and who knows if you dream hard enough maybe some of them will come true

we now call it the great realization and yes since then there have been many but that's the story of how it started and why hindsight's 2020.

The Great Realisation
By Tom Roberts

Poetry Questions

What do you like about the poem? Is there anything that you dislike?	What does the poem make you think about? Does it remind you of anyone? Does it remind you of anything you have ever read or seen?
What patterns can you find in the poem?	What puzzles and questions does the poem leave?

Lockdown

And I couldn't escape the waking dream of infected fleas

in the warp and weft of soggy cloth by the tailor's hearth

in ye olde Eyam. Then couldn't un-see

the Boundary Stone, that cock-eyed dice with its six dark holes,

thimbles brimming with vinegar wine purging the plagued coins.

Which brought to mind the sorry story of Emmott Syddall and Rowland Torre,

star-crossed lovers on either side of the quarantine line

whose wordless courtship spanned the river *till she came no longer*.

But slept again, and dreamt this time

of the exiled yaksha sending word to his lost wife on a passing cloud,

a cloud that followed an earthly map of camel trails and cattle tracks,

streams like necklaces, fan-tailed peacocks, painted elephants,

embroidered bedspreads of meadows and hedges,

bamboo forests and snow-hatted peaks, waterfalls, creeks,

the hieroglyphs of wide-winged cranes and the glistening lotus flower after rain,

the air hypnotically see-through, rare,

the journey a ponderous one at times, long and slow but necessarily so.

Simon Armitage