

# 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 poem, *The Great Realisation*.
- 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>

# Images

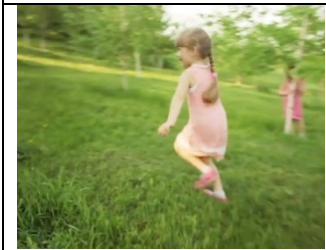
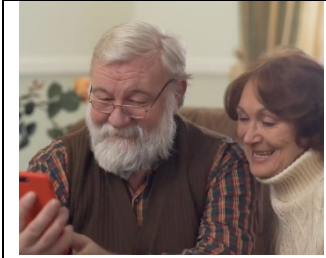


# Sentences 1

*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 is 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.

*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 things you have been thinking about? Write about some of these.

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