

Session 6: Trying Things Out

How kids see the world

Imagine how children explain something they see, but don't fully understand. Think back to your own experiences. You could write this also from the perspective of a parent, trying to scare a child...

The list of children's beliefs and explanations

- the drops running down candles are their tears
- it is illegal to have the light on inside the car when driving.
- Mommy and Daddy wrestle at night.
- cookie dough giving you worms
- If you eat the core of an apple a apple tree will grow out of your trees
- Watching television gives you square eyes.
- That Santa Claus is this old illusive man who lives in the woods and comes to visit the children and definitely isn't someone from who you might know from the village/city
- You die if you drink water straight after eating a huge bowl of cherries.
- Differently coloured Chickens lay differently coloured eggs. Darker coloured Chickens lay the brown eggs and the brighter coloured ones lay the white ones.
- If you go into the water right after eating, you will most certainly drown.
- When clouds are sad, it rains.
- "how are children made?" "when two people love each other they get children..." "do you and dad not love each other anymore?????"
- kissing gets you pregnant
- you can't go for a swim straight after having eaten, otherwise you'll drown
- "Grandma" and "Grandpa" are their real names.
- a red sunset in winter means Santa Claus is baking cookies
- easter bunny hides chocolate eggs in the garden
- god sits on a cloud in a toga with a harp
- missing socks found a family and live under the bed now
- when you drive a car you stand still and the outside moves around you
- if you are nice to people they have to be nice to you

Rules for a poem

Write a poem with 10 lines using 9 rules. The first two are fixed and you need to follow them. For the rest of the rules, you can add them and pick and choose the ones you like.

Fixed Rules

- The first and the last line are the same.
- The last two lines must rhyme.

Rules you can supply

- one line should be in a language other than English
- one line should be only adjectives (or verbs or nouns)
- The first and last word of each sentence have to be antonyms
- Every line has a name in it
- At least one line contains references to something you are a bit of a Nerd/Geek about
- in one line, randomly change topic
- Have every word of the line start with the same letter
- use only a short sentence (I cry, etc.) and repeat it as much as you can in one line
- one line should be only pronouns
- one line has to be sung or be taken from a song
- The last word of a sentence has to rhyme with the first word of the next sentence
- one line should question what was said in the line above
- create a turning point concerning plot or structure
- every stanza starts with the same expression
- only capitalized letters for one line
- only use pop culture references to bring the point across
- write one line backwards
- a line with only two syllable words
- repeat one word in a line
- one line with a hyperbole
- one line is a romantic composition of swear words
- every word of a line starts with the same letter
- every word of a line has the same number of letters
- the whole poem is one of those “keep calm and...” mugs
- one line has to begin with the last word of the previous line
- one line has to be repeated
- one line should only consist of names
- one line should consist of only 3 words that don't fit there but are missing somewhere else in the poem
- The Last word of one Line should be the first one of the following one
- one line should be a quote from Star Wars
- One line should contain some sort of philosophical/spiritual concept (Embedded into a sentence or not is up to you)
- one line should describe a beautiful painting or place
- a haiku but it's all meme references
- one line should begin with the same word as the line above begins with

- Use one overarching metaphor/image/idea for the poem. For example, Nature, Life, A Colour, etc.

Worst case scenario

List everyday activities and events below.

Afterwards, on a piece of paper, make a list of what can go wrong and create a story of the worst possible outcome based on this list.

- shopping trip before a holiday like Easter (when people seem to prepare for a siege...)
- driving to Tessin over Easter
- waiting for a train at the station
- brushing your teeth
- lighting a cigarette
- walking home from the train station
- Sexting with your partner
- going across national border
- changing a diaper
- ordering food/ a coffee, etc.
- flushing the toilet
- flying to a different continent
- waking up after the alarm started going off
- cooking
- walking down the stairs
- Putting in your lenses
- Shaving
- getting on an elevator/bus/plane...
- drinking juice
- greeting a stranger
- eating spaghetti
- Going to the toilet
- Taking the Bus
- Picking up Dog poop
- Mowing your lawn
- waiting for a friend to arrive
- listening to music
- helping in an emergency
- calling your dad
- zoom calls
- eating an apple
- drawing a flower

Putting off the evil moment

Add to a list of what you really don't like doing. Then, into the second column, list activities you engage in so as to put off the thing you really hate doing.

Either write

- a list poem of ever more absurd things to do to procrastinate (with some kind of a "moral" to end with)
- or a short story about what happened when you procrastinated.

Things I hate doing	Things I do to avoid them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning my apartment • Topping • Doing the reading for an assignment • Study • Breakups • calling someone • talking to someone at the counter at the bank • meeting people • giving your boss feedback • call my family • making a doctor's appointment • confronting someone about something serious • making any call at all • writing an application • telling someone your feelings • making decisions that involve others • emptying out the clean dishes from the dishwasher • going home • changing my bedsheets • doing big Assignments • filling in the tax papers • seeing the Doctor • procrastinate • replying to an email • thinking • getting out of a warm bed in winter • making a dentist appointment • going grocery shopping in a town where i might know someone • deciding where to eat • answering a text • doing research for a paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean my apartment • Cook a complex meal • bake bread rolls • binge tv series • sex • iron • Order some book, I really don't need to read right now • sleep • very intensely read signs • learn a new song on the piano • take a shower • window shop • read the parts of a news website that are really totally uninteresting (business, sports etc.) • order new clothes online • water my plants(finally) • pay my bills (finally) • iron underpants and socks • tell everyone about the thing I'm supposed to be doing while not actually doing it • go for a reaaaly long walk • procrastinate • rearrange my bookshelf with books sorted according to size or to colours • playing Video Games • watching series/streaming • play an instrument • doing my makeup/hair • taking a quiz about it • crying to my friends about it • making a to-do list and then tell myself I did something • planning for any possibility • clearing the dishwasher.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• organizing books alphabetically and then reorganize them by genre |
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Someone else's space

Imagine an abandoned bedsit/room or an unoccupied furnished flat. Add to the list below things you would find in this place. Lastly pick some poignant items and imagine the life of the person who lived in this space.

- a framed family photograph with parents, two children and a dog
- a box under the bed
- 50 pairs of high heels
- lots of empty bottles
- a somewhat stacked wardrobe
- a book full of spells
- a beetle collection
- Classified JFK files
- an apartment full of plants
- a treasure map, an unfinished book describing what to find on the map.
- dining room chair that opens to a night pot
- a gigantic bloodstain in the entryway carpet
- 57 snow globes of the same tourist attraction
- opened bag of crisps
- shoe box full of handwritten poetry
- a stopped clock
- five dirty mugs
- a survival guide for the year 2050
- Pictures of you
- random letters that were never sent
- a stack of girlie magazines from the eighties
- a mysterious orb
- a diary
- a cupboard full of those packaged herbs (the ones you get with instant ramen) but no ramen
- a travel guidebook to India, still shrink-wrapped
- a glove with four fingers and three left shoes
- blood covered umbrella
- a copy of Jane Eyre
- a collection of different silver forks

Playing around with words

Take a statement and re-arrange the words, ideally all of them, in as many different ways as you can. It may help to add punctuation...

You can list some here:

- I need a new pen to try and write concrete poems.
- It can't be helped, this is the moment when you have to face the music.
- Honey, I've shrunk the kids.
- Last night I killed a dog.
- When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die
- All I did was question god's motives
- Some say it seems insane to sunbathe on a Sunday.
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood.
- I want to break up
- To be afraid you can't be afraid of being afraid.
- the grand canyon is the grand canyon