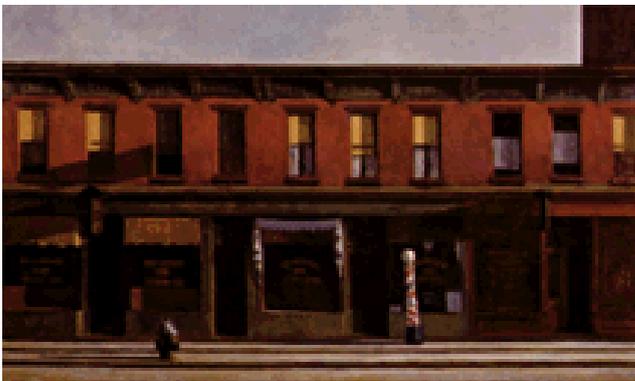


## Poetry at the Craggs All About Ekphrasis

Welcome to Poetry at the Craggs! This week we're thinking about poems based on works of art! This type of poetry is called 'ekphrasis' (pronounced ek-fray-sis), which is a Greek word that means 'description'.

The idea of an ekphrastic poem is to do more than describe the picture, however. Instead, ekphrastic poetry tries to think about what's happening outside the frame of the picture – in the bits we can't see.

Here's an example by poet John Stone. It's based on a painting called 'Early Sunday Morning' by artist Edward Hopper.



This is a great example of ekphrasis because it includes new details that aren't in the picture.

Why don't you try and circle all the things in the poem that aren't in the picture?

Early Sunday Morning

*John Stone*

Somewhere in the next block  
someone may be practicing the flute  
but not here

where the entrances  
to four stores are dark  
the awnings rolled in

nothing open for business  
Across the second story  
ten faceless windows

In the foreground  
a barber pole, a fire hydrant  
as if there could ever again

be hair to cut  
fire to burn  
And far off, still low

in the imagined East  
the sun that is again  
right on time

adding to the Chinese red  
of the building  
despite which color

I do not believe  
the day  
is going to be hot

It was I think  
on just such a day  
it is on just such a morning

that every Edward Hopper  
finishes, puts down his brush  
as if to say

As important  
as what is  
happening

is what is not.



## Poetry at the Crags All About Ekphrasis

Now it's your turn to have a go!

Step One: Find a picture! This can be any picture that you think is interesting and has a story to tell. If you're stuck, why not use one of these amazing pictures of what Creswell Crags might have looked like in the Ice Age, by artist Bob Nicholls?

Alternatively, why not ask your parent or guardian if you can have a look at some of the famous artworks on the Tate Kids website: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/exploure/whos-who>

Step Two: Write down what the picture makes you think of – do the colours make you feel happy, or sad? Do you think it shows somewhere hot or cold? Are there characters in the picture, or animals? Who are they? What are they thinking, or feeling? What are they looking at? What do you think they can smell? What's happening outside the edges of the picture, where we can't see?

Don't worry about trying to make things rhyme or about getting it 'right' – just have fun imagining what might be happening in the picture!

Step Three: Now you're going to assemble what you've written into a poem! Pick your favourite images and lines, and try to put them into an order that tells a story. When you're finished, write your poem out neatly. Don't forget to give it a title!

When you're finished, why not ask your parent or guardian if you can show us your finished poem on Twitter – remember to tag us @CreswellCrags, and use the hashtag #creswellpoetry!

## Poetry at the Craggs All About Ekphrasis

Now it's your turn to have a go!



A group of Neanderthals fire-hardening spears and warding off a cave hyena from their campsite at Creswell Crags, around 50,000 years ago. © Bob Nicholls

Write your poem here...

# Poetry at the Craggs All About Ekphrasis

Now it's your turn to have a go!



Late Upper Palaeolithic people trapping mountain hares at Creswell Crags 12,000 years ago. © Bob Nicholls

Write your poem here...

# Poetry at the Craggs All About Ekphrasis

Now it's your turn to have a go!



Upper Palaeolithic Gravettian people or “Cro Magnons” as they might have looked at Creswell Craggs 28,000 years ago. © Bob Nicholls

Write your poem here...