

Poetry at the Craggs

'What I Saw From My Window'

Welcome to Poetry at the Craggs! Today's exercise is perfect for when you're stuck indoors – it's all about using your imagination, and you can do that anywhere!

Let's look at an example of a poem that uses all sorts of creative images.

What I Saw
Anonymous

This poem was written in the 17th Century - that means this poem is over 300 years old!

'Pismire' is an old word for an ant!



I saw a Peacock with a fiery tail
 I saw a blazing Comet drop down hail
 I saw a Cloud with Ivy circled round
 I saw a sturdy Oak creep on the ground
 I saw a Pismire swallow up a Whale
 I saw a raging Sea brim full of Ale
 I saw a Venice Glass sixteen foot deep
 I saw a Well full of men's eyes that weep
 I saw their Eyes all in a flame of fire
 I saw a House as big as the Moon and higher
 I saw the Sun even in the midst of night
 I saw the Man that saw this wondrous sight.

Venice is a place in Italy famous for making elaborate and colourful glassware like these:



You might think that this poem doesn't make sense at first – after all, comets don't drop hail, and ants don't eat whales! However, there's something clever about the structure of this poem – can you see what it is?

Try reading the first half of a line with the second half of the line above. For example, 'I saw a blazing Comet', and 'with a fiery tail'.

Now read the rest of the lines like that! You will see that the poem is made of lines that make sense, but they've been split in half and mixed up, to make a fun new poem!

Poetry at the Crags

‘What I Saw From My Window’

Now it's your turn to have a go!

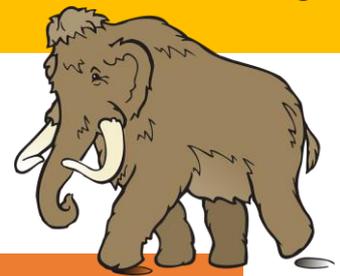
Step One: Write down all the things you can see from your window using the template below. You can make these up if you want to!

Step Two: Mix and match the two halves of your lines! You can do this with arrows, or you can cut up your worksheet (be careful!) Do this as many times as you like – don't worry about rhyming or making sense, just have fun coming up with new images.

Step Three: If you want to, write your finished poem out neatly – and add some illustrations!

For a different poem, you could imagine that you were living in one of the caves here at Creswell Crags – people really did live in them 50,000 years ago! What might you have seen looking out from the cave?

Hint: There is some information about life in the Ice Age on our website, if you get stuck! Just go to <https://www.creswell-crags.org.uk/education/teaching-resources/>



What did you see?	Description
Example: <i>I saw a sturdy oak</i>	<i>with ivy circled round</i>
I saw a	

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!