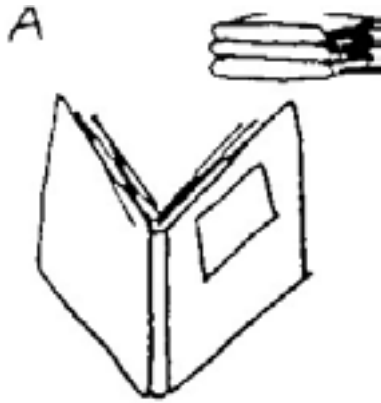


A Martian Sends a Postcard Home

Craig Raine



Caxtons are mechanical birds with many wings and some are treasured for their markings..

Only the young are allowed to suffer openly. Adults go to a punishment room

with water, but nothing to eat. They lock the door and suffer the noises

alone. No one is exempt and everyone's pain has a different smell.



A Martian Sends a Postcard Home - Craig Raine

This activity was first developed for use with a Year 8 class by a group of Year 10 pupils with the support of their teachers, Erica Plowman and Melanie Hart at Morpeth School in Bethnal Green. The year 10s discussion of the poem led to some excellent course work on their first arrival in the UK when they similar to Martians arriving from another planet. We have produced the original drawings for the activity where A cards provide the clues for the poem and the B cards are for the 'what is it?' activity to inspire poetic talk and further versions of the poem. We have added colour pictures if you want to brighten up the clue cards.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/martianpostcard.pdf>

This activity was last updated 7th June 2021

Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Curriculum Context

makes challenging curriculum accessible.

improves social relations in the classroom.

provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.

Good for all pupils!

Vital for EAL pupils!

Basic principles behind our talk for learning activities:

Oracy in curriculum contexts!

Build on children's own prior knowledge.

Move from concrete to abstract.

Ensure everyone works with everyone else.

Extend social language towards curriculum language.

Provide motivating ways to go over the same knowledge more than once.

It's empowering to talk an idea through before you write about it!

If you can persuade students to do something simple and playful together they will later jointly attempt something more difficult and challenging.

If you don't get the chance to talk something through with others, you won't be able to write about it later confidently!

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>



A Martian Sends a Postcard Home

Read and listen to the poem 'A Martian Sends a Postcard Home'

The Martian has never seen things on Earth before. It uses lots of different words to describe common everyday objects.

Match the pictures of the objects (the A Cards) to the correct number of verse or verses.

You can do it like this:

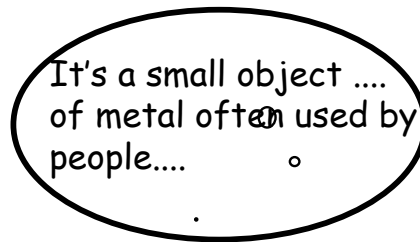


5. But time is tied to the wrist
or kept in a box ticking with impatience.



What is it?? Imagine you are a Martian!

You need the B cards for this activity. Work in pairs. One of you pick up a card - you are the only one knows what it is. Describe the object, but you must not say its name.



In groups write your own poem. Try it out on another group. Can they guess what your Martian is describing?

Draw your picture on this side

Message: here	Name and address
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Write your own Martian postcard.
Illustrate it too.

A Martian Sends a Postcard Home

1. Caxtons are mechanical birds with many wings
and some are treasured for their markings..
they cause the eyes to melt
or the body to shriek with pain
I have never seen one fly, but
sometimes they perch on the hand.
2. Mist is when the sky is tired of flight
and rests its soft machine on the ground:
then the world is dim and bookish
like engravings under tissue paper.
3. Rain is when the earth is television
it has the property of making colours darker.
4. Model T is a room with the lock inside ...
a lock is turned to free the world
for movement, so quick there is a film
to watch for anything missed.
5. But time is tied to the wrist
or kept in a box ticking with impatience.
6. In homes a haunted apparatus sleeps,
that snores when you pick it up.
If the ghost cries, they carry it
to their lips and soothe it to sleep
with sounds. A yet they wake it up
deliberately, by tickling with a finger.
7. Only the young are allowed to suffer
openly. Adults go to a punishment room
with water, but nothing to eat.
They lock the door and suffer the noises
alone. No one is exempt
and everyone's pain has a different smell.
8. At night, when all the colours die,
they hide in pairs
and read about themselves ...
in colour, with their eyelids shut



A



A



A



A



A



A



A



A



B



B



B



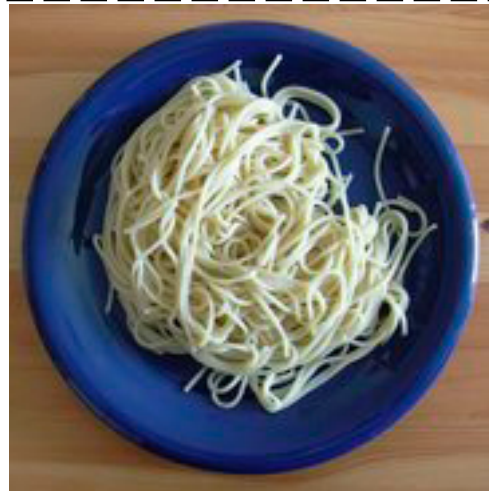
B



B



B



B



B





B



B



B



B



B



B



B



B

