

# **Creative directions**

**Write your own poems and  
stories with Ian McMillan**

I'm Ian. I'm a poet, playwright, journalist and broadcaster and I have worked with darts for a lot of years. We've been writing songs with people in Askern and Edlington for a project called Creative Directions. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that we can't meet in person at the moment, but that hasn't stopped the darts team working hard to find ways to help us be creative at home.

With that in mind, here are some exercises and prompts to help you to write some poems and stories. They are ideas to get your creative juices flowing and inspire you to put pen to paper. Feel free to dip in and out of the pages as you like and change the activities to suit you. Have fun!

We would love to see how you are using our resource pack – please tag us on social media using the details below, or share your creations with us via email at [amy@thepoint.org.uk](mailto:amy@thepoint.org.uk)

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## Acrostic Poems

I do like a nice acrostic! They get you thinking and when you've made a good one up it's really satisfying. An acrostic is when you write a word down the side of a page and then make up a poem from the first letters in each line, so:

**A  
C  
R  
O  
S  
T  
I  
C**

becomes:

**A**skern  
**C**ampsall  
**R**ossington  
**O**h Heck  
**S**o hard  
**T**o think  
**I**nstantly  
**C**haps!

**L  
O  
C  
K  
D  
O  
W  
N**

could be:

**L**ockdown,  
**O**ne day at a time;  
**C**up of tea,  
**K**etchup on my chips.  
**D**ay passes  
**O**ne cuppa at a time  
**W**e keep smiling  
**N**ever giving up.

Can you make up an acrostic poem of your own? Here are some words you could use as a starting point:

**Creative**  
**Music**  
**The place that you live, e.g. Askern**



## Limericks

Limericks look hard but they're really not: here's an example...

**There was a young feller from Donny  
Who was handsome and his wife was bonny  
They called him Pete  
He had size ten feet  
His wife's feet were small. She was Connie.**

Here's a few starts:

**There was a young woman from Edlo**

**There once was a young boy from Intake**

**I once saw a man in an old club**

**Last night I was walking my doggy**



## Invent a Character

Using the village names around Doncaster, we could invent some new characters for stories. So, for example, you could have:

**Bentley Thorne: he sounds like a James Bond type.**

**Or Den Aby: he sounds a bit of a lad.**

**Coni Sbrough: she could be as old as the castle, maybe?**

**High Melton: An Elton John tribute act.**

**Marr Cadeby: A wise, wise woman.**

Now, what will happen if they all get invited to the middle of town on a particular day?



## First Lines, Last Lines

We could think of first lines for stories, and then we think of some last lines, and we put them together at random and then work out what happened in between.

Here's a trio of first lines:

1. **It was midnight and the moon lit up the River Don.**
2. **"Is this bus going to Balby?" Helen asked.**
3. **I found these socks in the middle of Hexthorpe.**

And here's some last lines that aren't connected, but maybe we could try to make them connect:

1. **And then she looked in her bag and found the clock.**
2. **He looked across the room at his tea going cold.**
3. **She folded up the map of Warmsworth and gave it to Jenny.**

Let's mix them up and see what happens! These could make stories or even poems or songs.



## Look and Hear and Sit and Sing

The idea here is that you listen and look around you and fill in the missing lines in the poem. It can rhyme or not! Have fun!

**Stand at the window and look**

**And read the outside like a book**

**After a minute something's there**

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**Stand at the window and hear**

**Sounds rushing into your ear**

**After a minute you hear a noise**

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**Sit in your chair and think**

**Forget the kitchen sink**

**What was the daftest thing you've seen?**

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**Go to the door and sing**

**Or fly like a kite on a string**

**Is this the daftest thing you've done?**

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## This is the Story

Insert the missing word. Make it rhyme if you like!

This is the story of Dancing .....

Who danced all the way to .....

They danced through .....

And then through .....

Until they ran out of .....

Dancing ..... had lost the .....

That fitted in the .....

That helped the ..... to go

Without it all the ..... went slow

This is the story of Dancing .....

Who danced until the .....

And then the dancing .....

When the Dancer met the .....

Is there a happy ending?

Well that depends on you?

Is Dancing ..... just .....

Or will the Dancing .....





## I Need to Get My Hair Done

We're all starting to need a haircut; here's a poem where we can insert as many styles as we like! Just make up some words in the spaces.

I need to get my hair done,

I need a proper style

Since I went to have it .....

It's been quite a while.

It's longer than a .....

Bushier than a .....

And if it gets too windy

It will look like a .....

I could colour it .....

Or I could colour it .....

I could hold it down with .....

Or hide it under a .....

I need to get my hair done

I need a proper .....

Since I had my .....

It's been at least a .....



# Hello

Let's make up some new ways of greeting each other, once we're allowed out! Just fill in the spaces. And don't forget, you can make them up!

Hello, how are you? Greetings, .....

Now then, How's your .....

Pleased to meet you, give me a .....

Elbow touching is allowed

But you can no longer .....

Especially in a crowd!

Give us a smile as wide as .....

Give us a great big grin!

Lift your cap and lift your .....

Now the talking can begin!

As long as you don't .....

'Cos that would be a sin!

Wave to me across the street

Just say .....

And everybody that you meet

Can give you ..... !



## I'm Gonna

We're all thinking about what we're going to do when this crisis is all over: here's a few ideas for poems we might write. I know I'm going to be writing loads! Fill in the missing words. Make something up!

**When this is all over I'm gonna**

**Have a great big** .....

**And a cup of** .....

**In a cosy café with** .....

**On a plate**

**When this is all over I'm gonna**

**Go up to my mate**

**And give them a** .....

**And a big box of** .....

**All wrapped up**

**When this is all over I'm gonna**

**Get on a bus to** .....

**Sit on a train to the** .....

**And have a plate of** .....

**In the park.**



## Imagine the Room

Let's imagine a room that we can all squeeze into! Fill in the missing words. Make something up!

**Here's the room,**

**A very small room**

**And it's a room**

**With not much room**

**Because**

**Here's** ..... **wearing a** .....

**And** ..... **carrying a** .....

..... **is playing a** .....

**And** ..... **is eating** .....

**Here's the room,**

**A very small room**

**And it's a room**

**With not much room**

**Because**

..... **is talking to** .....

**And is** ..... **singing** .....

..... **has spilled some**

**And** ..... **is laughing like a** .....



## Fashion Parade

Let's have a fashion parade of new Un-lockdown clothing!

**Shoes that can stand close to people!**

**Trousers that can run into a café!**

**Coats with big pockets for hand-sanitiser (we'll probably still need it)**

**A hat that you can throw up in the air because you're so happy!**

**Pants that say I SURVIVED LOCKDOWN (nobody will see them but who cares!)**

Have a look through your own wardrobe or use some images from magazines for inspiration. Pick out 5 items of clothing or accessories and write your own fashion parade in the style of the poem above.

Think about where you might like to visit or what activities you might like to do in your un-lockdown outfit!

