

EVERYDAY MAGIC

Activities for the session and to try out at home. Careful now, don't conjure away your knives and forks!

Magic phrases (based on a game devised by Philip Gross & Pen2Mic)

The aim of this exercise is to begin thinking creatively about using language. You will need to make three lists:

- ☆ a list of adjectives (describing words)
- ☆ a list of abstract nouns (names for intangible things: can't be sensed – such as love, cold)
- ☆ a list of concrete nouns (table, car, cat, town hall etc.)

Cut up each word and, keeping them in their list group, mix them up. Now you can turn each over and create the following phrases: The *adjective* of the *abstract noun* *concrete noun*

An example could be “The *shimmer* of the *surprise guitar*” Have fun creating new, and unusual, phrases!

Ode to an everyday object

The aim of this exercise is to think about an ordinary object and write a poem that celebrates it! An ode is a lyrical poem that follows a strict rhyming pattern for example - ABABCDECDE. John Keats, an English Romantic Poet, wrote a series of these in 1819. You can learn more about Keats and his poems here: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/john-keats>

Finding magic in the everyday (Adapted from M. Y. Alam)

The aim of this exercise is to hone your memory, observation and listening skills as a writer. Close your eyes and imagine the journey to Touchstones think about the following questions:

- ☆ where did you leave from – home or somewhere else
- ☆ how did you travel - what modes of transport did you see and what transport did you use
- ☆ what was the journey like
- ☆ what was the route
- ☆ did you interact with anyone
- ☆ what did you see on the way – any unusual street signs or interesting features
- ☆ what was the weather like
- ☆ what mood were you in

Then, after you've spent about five or so minutes on this, make a list with specific words or any details you can remember. Write an autobiographical piece of writing exploring the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of the journey. Can use the first person or play with other perspectives. The next time, take the same journey and, if it's safe to do so, make notes or use a voice recorder including overheard snippets of conversation. You could construct a story from conversations and imagine what's going on to write a more textured piece of writing.