



Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

Doors - the world of possibility

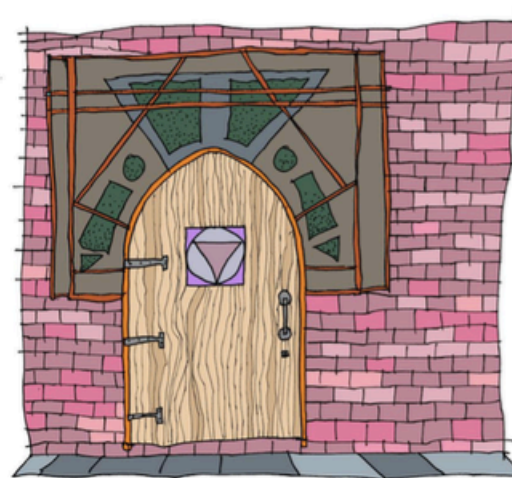
by Jamie Thomas



Doors

-the world of possibility

Year 6 Workbook
by Jamie Thomas



Introduction

Have you ever looked at a door and wondered what might be on the other side? Where may it lead? What may be hiding within? At first glance, a door is just a piece of wood, glass or metal that is opened and closed so that people can get in and out of a room, a vehicle or a space. But in the hands of a writer, a door represents a world of possibility, a world where things are not only hidden but often closed off and restricted. Together, through poetry, text games and narrative, we shall explore the potential that a door offers to you, the writer.



Activity 1: The world we live in

As I write this, the world is in lockdown, shut behind doors for our own safety and the safety of everyone else. Covid-19 has closed schools, closed shops and temporarily closed some of the things we take for granted, like playing in the park with our friends.

★ **Make a list of all the things that you miss doing. You may like to think about some of the following categories:**

- seeing family
- playing sports
- seeing friends
- exploring your interests
- day to day things
- places you love to visit

Throughout these sessions, you may like to use these personal reflections to inspire and influence your writing.

Activity 2: I opened the magical door and saw ...

This is an idea inspired by Kit Wright's poem 'The Magic Box' (you could search for this on the internet to read his poem). In the poem, Kit imagines what may be contained inside a magical box. We can use this idea to connect to what could be behind the magical door.

★ **Before you begin, brainstorm a list of ideas for what might be behind the door. Let your imagination run wild as there is no wrong answer. Once you have your list, have a go at writing a poem, using the repeating opener: I opened the magical door and saw ...**

Here's an example to help you get going:

I opened the magical door and saw shadows dancing.

I opened the magical door and saw a rainbow leading to another world.

I opened the magical door and saw people crying.

I opened the magical door and saw a magical fairground flooded in lights.

Once you have got your ideas, go back and see if you can add to them. You could add more description or bring the thing to life through action, e.g.

I opened the magical door and saw a shoal of hungry shadows, tangoing through busy streets.

★ **Have fun adding to your ideas and let your imagination run wild. Have a read of this poem I created with some Y6 children to help you get ideas:**

The Magical Door

*I opened the magical door and saw ...
a world turned upside down:
the sea, now a floating ceiling,
the clouds, an inviting carpet.*

*I opened the magical door and saw ...
the reflection of myself:
standing, searching, staring,
questioning how this was possible.*

*I opened the magical door and saw ...
a sweet-treat paradise:
clouds of candy floss,
drifting across a bubble gum sky.*

*I opened the magical door and saw ...
a field of waves:
blue potatoes were leaping,
playing in white foam,
as puzzled farmers watched from sunny shores*

*I opened the magical door and saw ...
The image of a street I used to know,
But as I entered, everything changed;
As I reached out, everything had gone.*



continued ...

I opened the magical door and saw ...
A forest of mirrors,
surrounding me in dazzling white light,
leading me into a world of mystery.

I opened the magical door and saw...
A feast of my favourite foods
Guarded by monster chips
Waiting to fight off all invaders.

I opened the magical door and saw ...
Monstrous mobile phones
Herding people into little houses
And laughing, laughing, laughing.

I opened the magical door and saw...
The future.

★ Reread what you have written and change some of the words so that it says exactly what you want it to say. You may want to look at the writing challenge below and add in some of these ideas.

Writing Challenge:

★ Can you explore more of the senses? You may like to try the following pattern:

I opened the magical door and saw ...
I opened the magical door and heard ...
I opened the magical door and smelt ...
I opened the magical door and touched ...
I opened the magical door and found ...

Activity 3: Artistic challenge


Doors are not only exciting for what may lie behind them, they can be designed to invite you into their world. A few years ago, a derelict area of Funchal in Madeira was transformed by local artists who decided to bring the dead doors to life. The beauty of the art opened new doors, and soon homes, shops and restaurants flourished there. Here are a few of those doors.



★ Have a go at drawing, painting or creating your own door. What design would you choose? What would it represent?

Activity 4: Idioms

An idiom is a common word or phrase which means something different from its literal meaning but can be understood because of its popular use, e.g.

Idiom	Meaning
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable
Bite the bullet	To get something over with because it is inevitable
	

★ Below is a list of idioms about doors. Can you work out what they mean?

Idiom	Meaning
as one door closes, another opens	
at death's door	
behind closed doors	
through the back door	
dead as a doornail	
foot in the door	
keep the wolf from the door	
knocking on heaven's door	
leave the door open	
show somebody the door	
slam the door in somebody's face	

Activity 5: 'The Door'

In this session, we are going to consider the importance of fluency and expression when we read. Begin by reading Miroslav Holub's poem *The Door*. You may like to listen to these two contrasting performances:

See separate document called links to poems

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011kx3r>

★ Decide which reading you prefer and why and jot down your response.



Now make some notes on the poem:

- What did you like about the poem? What was your favourite line and why?
- How did the poem make you feel?
- Which line in the poem did you find the most interesting and why?
- Are there any parts of the poem that leave you with unanswered questions?
- What questions would you like to ask the poet, Miroslav Holub?

★ Decide how you would perform this out loud and have a go at performing at home.

The Door
by Miroslav Holub

Go and open the door.
Maybe outside there's
a tree, or a wood,
a garden,
or a magic city.
Go and open the door.
Maybe a dog's rummaging.
Maybe you'll see a face,
or an eye,
or the picture
of a picture.

Go and open the door.
If there's a fog
it will clear.

Go and open the door.
Even if there's only
the darkness ticking,
even if there's only
the hollow wind,
even if
nothing
is there,
go and open the door.

At least
there'll be
a draught.

Miroslav Holub, 'The door' trans. Ian Milner, *Poems Before & After: Collected English Translations* (Bloodaxe Books, 2006)
www.bloodaxebooks.com