



# PRE-WRITING PROMPTS

Now that you have explored treasured objects and poetic process from other people, it's time to begin drafting your own special object poem. The following activities will help you get started.

## Group Activity: Metaphors

Further develop your original imagery and playful language by using **metaphors** to express the ideas and feelings associated with curious objects. A **metaphor** is a poetic device that makes a direct comparison between two things, without the use of the words as or like.

As a group, share ideas to complete the metaphors below.

E.g. *The lucky token is a time capsule.*  
*The lucky tokens are exploding stars as I toss them into the air.*

Joan Richmond's driving goggles are .....

David Hain's radio is a .....

Ernesto Neto's artwork is a .....

Refer to **pages 11-13** for inspiration on the objects above.

Create a group poem inspired by a special object in your classroom. **Discover our guide to writing group poems.**

## Ways of Seeing

Draw your object in as many different ways as you can:

- » eyes closed
- » unstopping line
- » left-handed

## Drawing Inner Worlds

Now, imagine the inner world of your special object. Do lorikeets live inside your pocketwatch? Is there a planet hiding within your smallest babushka doll?

Draw what your eyes cannot see.



## Guiding Questions

For this activity you will need a pen and a piece of lined paper. Clear off your desk so that you have nothing on it except your writing materials and your special object.

- » Write an **imagined history** for your special object. Where was it 'born'? Which land did it come from? How did it find you?
- » What is the secret of your special object? Does it have a secret mission?
- » Write about the adventures that your object embarks upon while you sleep.
- » Describe your most memorable moment with your special object.
- » Imagine your object can speak. What does it say to you?
- » Imagine you are describing your object to someone without sight or over the phone. Describe your object with a list of vivid images.



Kambarang:  
 Wildflower Season.  
 An abundance of colours.  
 The Season of Birth.  
 ~ 'HAIKUS' by Felix S.

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- » Create a list of **sensory similes** that imagine what your object smells, feels, tastes, sounds and looks like? Eg: *Tastes like a tropical fruit in the middle of winter.*
- » How is the object like an animal you know? Write a line or two in which you explain how the object is like an animal.
- » Use a **metaphor** to describe your object (A metaphor is a direct comparison where one thing is said to be another). E.g. *My seashell is a time machine.*
- » Write a sentence in which you use **onomatopoeia** to describe your object. Eg. *The babushka doll clip-clops closed as I hide secrets inside.*
- » Write a line that uses **alliteration** to describe your object. E.g. *Under the sun, my oyster shell oscillates between orange and obsidian.*
- » Research the origins of your special object. Create a **myth** about the creation of your special object. You may use real facts or weave a fictional tale. What are the best things about your special object? You can use these ideas to write an **ode** inspired by your object.
- » What does your object represent? Write three **symbols** to express what your object means to you. E.g. *The star on my pendant is a compass pointing north.*
- » Use different styles of **voice** to evoke particular emotional responses in your reader. Experiment with writing from the voice of someone who is:
  - (a) angry
  - (b) excited
  - (c) amazed
- » Use **personification** to write three first-person 'I' sentences from the perspective of your curious object.
- » List five facts about your object. Use **hyperbole** to exaggerate these facts. Using this poetic device will add drama and humour to your poem.
- » Think of the name and the features of your object. Create at least three **puns** based on your **wordplay**. Include these puns in your poem.
- » Explain how you would feel if your object was lost or destroyed.