# Poetry Competition!

Create a 'Blackout Poem' with the theme of 'Hope'

You could win a cash prize or a workshop with poet Craig Bradlney.

All entries will be made into a digital book with pupils from schools all over North Yorkshire.

Blackout Poetry is made by colouring over parts of an existing text, so that only selected words remain visible, creating a poem.

Like these ones…
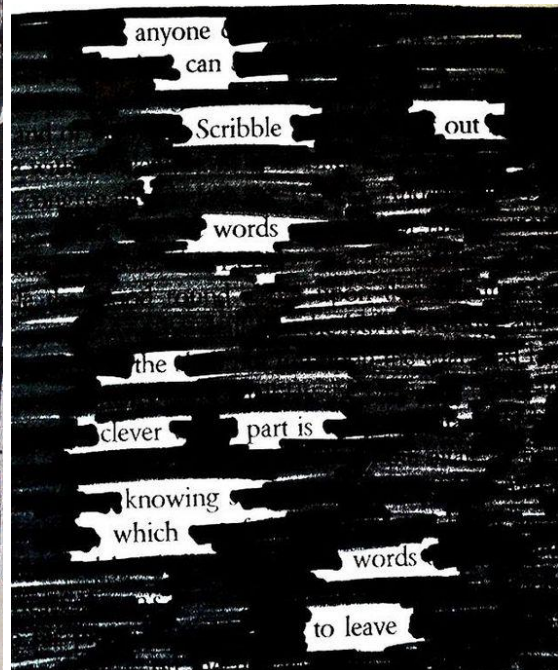
You can use any text from home (newspapers, magazines, online text) or I have provided some for you to use.

Once you are happy with the finished poem, pass them back to the staff calling round to your house on or around the 20th May. Please include the source (eg the Newsround website, The Sun Newspaper, etc) They will then be scanned and emailed to the competition organisers. (The Virtual School)

Coronavirus: What is being done to tackle the virus? (newsround website)

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Last updated at 09:18

You'll almost certainly have heard about coronavirus - it's the reason schools have been closed across the UK and why people are being asked to stay at home.

It's been dominating the news for months, with the government holding daily briefings to keep everyone updated with what is going on.

Coronavirus is a new flu-like *virus* spreading around the world. The virus causes an illness called *Covid-19,* though lots of people still refer to the illness as 'coronavirus' as that is how it was known at first.

People in the UK, and in other parts of the world, have been told to stay at home and only go out if it's absolutely necessary. This is to stop the virus spreading.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new rules in March which mean people can only leave home for essential shopping, or to care for someone elderly or vulnerable. People can leave the house to exercise but only once a day and away from other people if they do not live in the same house.

Only shops selling really important things like food, medicine and home maintenance items are allowed to stay open - the rest have been told to shut. People have been calling this a "lockdown".

Another big change is that **most schools have closed**. The government says they're closed "until further notice" - which means that right now they can't say when they'll reopen.

A **new government app** is also being tested, which will aim to try to track who may have coronavirus and to alert other people they might have been in contact with.The Scottish government has also set out its own plans for a "test, trace, isolate, support" system to keep coronavirus in check.The UK government has been holding a daily news conference on coronavirus to let everyone in the UK know what's being done, and what we should all be doing to stay healthy and safe.

If people do go out they have been told to practise **'social distancing**' - which is keeping at least two metres away from others if they don't live in the same house as you - to make it harder for the virus to pass from person to person.

The prime minister started holding the daily news conferences, but other ministers took on the task after he had to be taken into hospital after **coming down with the virus**.

The prime minister is now **back at work** after recovering.

How long will the lockdown last?

We don't yet know how long the lockdown will last in the UK. The government is reviewing the situation every three weeks.

On 30 April, Boris Johnson said that the UK had **passed the peak of the virus spreading** and said that he would announce next week what the options are to move out of lockdown.

He said: "We have come through the peak... It is vital we do not now lose control and run into second and bigger mountain."

Experts including the UK's chief medical adviser, Professor Chris Whitty, and Sir Patrick Vallance, the UK's chief scientific adviser, have been giving regular updates to explain why the actions they are taking can help tackle coronavirus.

Prof Whitty has said some sort of social distancing is likely to go on until a vaccine or medicines to help treat Covid-19 are available, which could take until next year.

Ministers have said any reports schools will only reopen "when it's safe to do so" - and even then it's likely not all classes will go back at once.

What else are people being asked to do?

As well as everybody doing their best to stay at home, people showing symptoms of coronavirus have been told to self-isolate - which means staying at home and avoiding contact with anyone else. The UK government says you must do this for seven days, although other countries say it should be 14 days. Anyone who lives in the same house as someone with these symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days.

Other advice people are being told to follow is to only use the NHS (National Health Service) - that means going to hospital or the doctors - when it's absolutely necessary. People should dial 111 rather than going to their doctor or to an NHS hospital. If it's an emergency, you must still call 999.

Thousands of retired and former NHS staff have gone back to work to help out, while more than 750,000 **volunteers** are helping the organisation to stay in touch with elderly people who home alone, or to deliver medicine and equipment.

My grandad, Captain Tom, is at Number 1 in the UK charts!

Can you imagine how you would feel if your grandfather got to Number 1 in the charts?!

Pretty mind-blowing - but that's what happened to Benjie. His grandad, Captain Tom Moore, inspired load of people by not only taking on **a walking mission to raise money for the NHS**, but then teamed up with singer Michael Ball and **the NHS Voices Of Care Choir to release a song**!

Benjie told Newsround: "I think it's quite hard to believe. The British public has been incredible doing this. He's laughing all the time about it because he finds it hilarious."

Captain Tom's version of You'll Never Walk Alone made it to the top of the UK's Official Singles Chart just in time for the 99 year-old war veteran's 100th birthday.

So far Captain Tom has raised nearly £30 million!

(newsroud website)

Instructions…

Skim your page of words. Don't read carefully, as the point is just to grab an idea from the words, not take them in. Find a word, phrase or general theme that you like. Now go through and lightly circle the words or phrases you might like to use.

On a piece of paper, write down your words and phrases in order, and read them through, Cross out the words you don't want. If you need a few connecting words (like "a", "the", "it", etc. then dive back in and see if you can find them between the words you want to connect. You often can! Circle them and add them to your poem.

Go back through your poem and boldly box the words you are keeping with pen, Sharpie, dark pencil, etc. Erase any circles around words you don't want.

Read through your final poem. Sketch in a few images or symbols on your page that relate to the theme of your poem. Now it's time to start blackening. Black out everything that is NOT a word in your poem or one of your own sketches. When you are done, copy your poem onto a blank piece of paper to display with your blackout poem.

BLACKOUT POETRY