



Our Big Picture Creative Writing Pack

Our Big Picture needs your help to develop a creative local archive full of your stories about Grimsby, our hometown.

For this part of the project we want you to get involved and add your writing to the 'Our Haven' exhibition. This will be a physical and online exhibition where your writing will be on display.

This creative writing pack contains three writing prompts which will help you generate ideas in different ways.

Choose one writing prompt – or have a go at all of them, the choice is yours.

When you're happy with your creation, share your responses with our friend Wendy, who is putting the exhibition together, using the address: WENDY@OURBIGPICTURE.CO.UK

Use your imagination and get creative, we can't wait to read your writing.

1

Writing Activity 1: Grimsby's Mythical Creature

Write a story or a poem about a mythical creature that lives alongside us right here in Grimsby.

Grimsby is full of places where such a creature could live. There might be a mermaid living in the River Freshney, in People's Park pond or the Docks. There could be creatures in the Minster (St James' Church), or any other church in the town, in Freshney Place shopping centre or one of the local coffee shops, parks or streets. They could be anywhere your imagination puts them.

You can write about mythical creatures straight from Greek or Roman mythology. Click on these links for a list of mythical creatures and how they behaved:

[Ancient Greece for Kids: Monsters and Creatures of Greek Mythology \(ducksters.com\)](http://www.ducksters.com/greek/mythology/monsters-creatures-of-greek-mythology.html)

<https://reedsy.com/discovery/blog/mythical-creatures>

Or, just like JK Rowling, you could create your own. This would be fun and a great way to use your imagination.

You might have ideas straight away and just want to crack on, or you might want to follow the 'Getting Started' section to help you develop your story or poem.

Getting Started

A good way to get your ideas going is to use the **what if** question.

Here it is in action: **'What if there was a mermaid in the River Freshney?'**

The answers you think of in response to this question will be ideas for your story or poem, e.g. she would:

- tidy the river up, throw all the litter out and become an eco-warrior
- take on human form and go shopping in town
- buy up all the fish from the fish stalls on the market
- flood the toilets in Freshney Place
- sing her high-pitched song and shatter all the glass in shop windows
- be arrested for vandalism but magically disappear back to the water

This would be humorous, but your story or poem can have a darker or more serious tone. It can be set in the past, present or future. It's entirely up to you.

2

You can then use the 5 Ws to help you develop your writing:

- Who
- What
- Why
- When
- Where

The 5 Ws

When is your story/poem set?

What is your mythical creature?

When does your mythical creature come out?

Who can see your creature?

Who is affected by them?

Who wants to help or hurt them?

What are they doing?

Why are they doing it?

What impact will they have on the community?

Where do they live?

Why do they live there?

What do they want?

Why do they want it?

What happens in the end?

Ask any more W questions you can think of to develop your story/poem idea

3

Just to recap:

- Think about your favourite spaces and places, areas, buildings, rivers
- Grimsby is a magical place to live – imagine the mythical creatures that could live in these places
- Write a 'what if' question to get some initial ideas
- Develop your idea further by using the 5 Ws – add your own W questions to those given above
- Write your story/poem
- Email it to WENDY@OURBIGPICTURE.CO.UK

4

Writing Activity 2: Write an Eight-Word Story

An eight-word story isn't a full story. It uses just eight words that are connected to create meaning. It creates ideas for a longer story or poem.

Use the following steps to create your story:

1. Choose an area/place/building in Grimsby that you love and write down **the name of this place** and **what you can see there**. Include what you can **see in your imagination**, too

People's Park, pond, swans, squirrels, fountains, Victorians out walking, secrets, ghosts

2. Now think about the feelings and emotions you have for this place (this will help you set the tone of the story e.g. I chose to make mine sound mysterious

Safety, memories, happiness, mystery

3. Now choose the words from steps 1 and 2 you want to use in your eight-word story

People's Park, swans, secrets, mystery

4. Add words to help you create meaning such as 'the', 'and' 'so' etc. so that your story makes sense

5. *Gliding swans know the secrets of People's Park.*

Gliding swans know the secrets of People's Park

You could go on to write more lines to create a poem or take just one line of eight words and develop it into a full story.

5

Writing Activity 3: Use Anagrams to Write a Story/Poem

If you fancy having a go at playing with words, this idea is for you. It takes a bit of explaining, so bear with me!

I typed in GRIMSBYISACE into the anagram generator:

<https://www.wordplays.com/anagram-solver/> (no spaces allowed, and the phrase can't exceed 14 letters)

I pressed GO and a whole host of words dropped down in front of me. Not all of them were suitable, and some didn't even make sense, so I trawled through them and selected words which (for me) had a Grimsby feeling. Here they are:

mirage grass grace grim
barges races rages
beams magic image

The Next Step:

- I used just a few of these words to build a piece of writing
- I added words around them to make a poem

As you can see from my response below, I've written a collection of lines to make a poem about Grimsby. **Take liberties with the words from the generator to make them work for you – you can change the tense or make them plural.**

Here's what I came up with:

*We need to take the **grim** out of **Grimsby** because **Grimsby** is **ace**.*

*Sun**beams** shine on this **magical** place,*

*Its **grassy** parks where children **race** and chase*

*And swans swim in the pond with natural **grace***

*It's a glittering **mirage**, a jewel in the east.*

*Yes, **Grimsby** is **ace***

6

Here are some ideas to put into the anagram generator:

- WELOVEGRIMSBY
- WEMORETHANFISH (should be 'we are' but that's over the letter limit)!
- THANKSKINGJOHN (OK, he's got a bad reputation, but he gave us our Town Charter so let's give him the benefit)!

Why not put some your favourite places in the generator, such as:

- FRESHNEYPLACE
- STJAMESCHURCH
- WEELSBYWOODS
- PEOPLESPARK

Or your favourite things:

- FISHANDCHIPS
- THEDOCKTOWER

You could try entering the names of favourite venues, cafes, street names, names of favourite buildings...the list is endless (but unfortunately the letter limit isn't – sorry about that)!

Because of the letter limit in the anagram generator, why not enter a longer phrase/sentence by splitting it up into 2 or more and enter it into the generator in stages?

We're so pleased you're joining in with the project.

The next step is to email your writing to: WENDY@OURBIGPICTURE.CO.UK

7