



Gwanwyn Poetry Prompt #2

A Day at the Seaside

Another thing that can generate really interesting poems is writing about visits to the seaside. The seaside is such a rich place, full of interesting sounds, sights, feelings and memories, that it can make for great poems. Whether it is the sound of seagulls, the feeling of sand between the toes, or the taste of ice cream, there is so much to write about when thinking about the seaside.

You are welcome to write about a recent trip to the seaside or a memory from long ago. In your poem, think about the following:

- The sounds of the seaside. You might want to listen to this clip so that you can get the sounds of the seaside into your poems! [Waves and Gulls \(YouTube\)](#)
- Who are you going to the seaside with? You can write about the journey there or the things you get up to on the beach, with that feeling of togetherness.
- Seaside daytrips are full of all sorts of objects and paraphernalia! Buckets and spades, windbreaks, beach balls – make sure you get all those objects into your poem.
- Think about the sights of the seaside: how does the beach look as you arrive? Think about the sights of the promenade, the pier... You might want to have a look at the photographs at the end of this pack to inspire you.
- Think about touch, taste and smell. The feel of water or sand beneath your toes, the smell of fish and chips, the taste of ice cream or doughnuts or sandwiches brought from home, wrapped in foil and gritty with sand between your teeth...

1. Making Notes

One useful way to begin would be to listen to the sounds of the seaside or think about your memories and make some notes for your poem. Here are some lines I scribbled while listening to the seaside clips.

- *Woosh, woosh, w-woosh*, says the stammering, jabbering surf.
- The seagulls' call is a fire alarm. The waves bring their hose.
- The beach is a walk from here to the place around the corner.
- *Shush!* says the breaking wave, its finger to its lips.
- Empty deckchairs lie back and sun themselves.

2. Writing Your Poem

Dylan Thomas's 'Holiday Memory' is a fabulous example of writing about a memory of a childhood day out at the seaside. You can hear the poet reading it here: [Holiday Memory \(YouTube\)](#) and read the text here: [For Prole: Dylan Thomas A Holiday Memory](#). I love the way this piece of writing conjures the sights and sounds, and all the chaotic activity of a day at the seaside.

Enjoy looking at, listening to and remembering the seaside, and spend a happy day on the beach by writing your poem!

3. Sharing your poem

Please share your poem with us. You can email a copy or an audio file of you reading your poem to gwanwyn@agecymru.org.uk. Alternatively, you can post a copy to:

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Credits

This worksheet was created by Jonathan Edwards, for the Unearthing Creativity project. Unearthing Creativity is a collaboration between Marion Cheung, Naz Syed, Creative Lives and Age Cymru, and is funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

