

Key Stage 3-5

LOVE LETTERS BETWEEN
INANIMATE OBJECTS

Create poems about everyday objects. Here is a chance to interrogate the miscellaneous, normal things that surround us. It is an exercise in voice, surprising language and characterisation in poetry.

The Toothbrush to the Bicycle Tire

They told me that I was meant for the cleaner life;
that you would drag me through the mud.

They said that you would tread all over me,
that they could see right through you,

that you were full of hot air;
that I would always be chasing,

always watching you disappear after sleeker models—
that it would be a vicious cycle.

But I know better. I know about your rough edges
and I have seen your perfect curves.

I will fit into whatever spaces you let me.
If loving you means getting dirty, bring on the grime.

I will leave this porcelain home behind. I'm used to
twice-a-day relationships, but with you I'll take all the time.

And I know we live in different worlds, and we're always really busy,
but in my dreams you spin around me so fast, I always wake up dizzy.

So maybe one day you'll grow tired of the road
and roll on back to me.

And when I blink my eyes into morning,
your smile will be the only one I see.

by Sarah Kay

Choose two activities you do every day, such as:

Cycling to school
Brushing your teeth
Queuing for lunch
Going to the shop

List all the objects you need to do these activities and then choose one object from each activity, for example:

Bicycle light
Toothbrush

Interrogate the objects

What colours are the object? What do they feel like? What might they taste like, how do they sound when in use?
What do the objects hate about getting up in the morning?
What do the objects have in common?
What would they say to one another?

The answers should form around 10 lines of a poem which is a love message from one object to another.

Think carefully about the form the poem takes. Could it be developed into a sonnet? Or haikus that answer one another?

Read aloud. Share online.



Reference: Watch Sarah Kay read her poem *The Toothbrush to the Bicycle Tire*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIAQENSqcuM>