

## INVITING NEW VISION

A guide to writing a poem that invites a new vision of the world, created by the poet, John McCullough.

[www.johnmccullough.co.uk](http://www.johnmccullough.co.uk)

Key stage 3/4/5

# NATIONAL Writing Day

24 JUNE 2020

### In The Angelfish Café

The woman who says sorry to chairs  
is pleased with her work. She's used her tray  
to build a city within the city - the teapot  
her Pavilion, forks for piers, a ketchup church.

I picture the cast of residents, fire eaters  
who charm lushes in a park of crusted mash;  
squatters occupying mugs; the spoon's shadow  
flecked with pensioners in latex shorts.

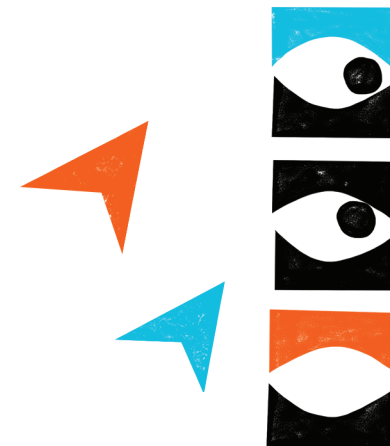
But the Creator's moseyed off. I sip my lemon tea  
and gaze as the waiter grabs the corners  
of the ocean and the entire city trembles and rises,  
floats away beyond the walls of the world.

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from *Spacecraft*

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# NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2020

## See It Like a Poet



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## 1st OCTOBER 2020

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The poet **John McCullough** offers writing prompts to help you create a poem that invites a new vision of the world. His own poem treats an ordinary scene – a woman eating breakfast – as if it were a God-like act of creation.

Hear him read and talk about it on **YouTube**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMQeyeZ2zcc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMQeyeZ2zcc)

## THREE WRITING PROMPTS\*

### ONE

Write a poem about a family member meeting a famous person or historical figure. It doesn't have to have happened; what would be the encounter you'd most like to write about?

Auntie Pam versus the Queen of Sheba - why not?

### TWO

Jot a series of lies about yourself that aren't wish fulfilment. Not 'I am rich and famous and beautiful' but 'I cannot stand the colour yellow. I rip out those daffodils whenever I see them...'

Use your favourite lies to write a poem about a speaker who is a compulsive liar.

### THREE

Write a poem about constructing an object like a dress, a cake, a helicopter etc piece by piece - or taking something apart. Without spelling it out too much, make the poem explore your feelings toward someone associated with that object.

Cut the person up or celebrate their kindness - it's up to you.



\*John McCullough accepts no responsibility for any arguments or criminal acts which ensue from any of the exercises mentioned.



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[www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk](http://www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk)

