

READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *I Want Oot* by Matthew Fitt.

- Look up any words you don't understand in a Scots dictionary or online.
- Explain how the child in this poem is feeling and all the reasons why.
- Where did he/she used to spend all their time?
- "Trailing back mawkit lang efter dark."
Is this something you're allowed to do?
Explain your answer.

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Read the poem *Looking Up* by Diana Hendry.

- Go outside to the playground (or park/garden).
- Look all around you. Don't forget to look up!
- Jot down some of the things you see and the sounds you hear. How does being out in the fresh air make you feel?
- Create a **Looking Up** poem with three verses, using the same starting lines for each verse as the original.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *We Put a Rainbow in the Window* by Dean Atta.

Rainbows are often seen as a symbol of hope
"because we know after the storm the sun will follow."

Look at these beautiful rainbow pictures by famous artists: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/top-5/top-5-rainbows>

Have a go at creating your own rainbow art.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *A Witch's Guide to Staying at Home* by Elizabeth Ezra.

- Create a rhyming spell for your class *Book of Spells and Incantations*.
- Invent a secret code which only your fellow witches can read, and write your spells in code.
- Write a set of instructions for making witch cakes. Maybe you could even make the cakes!



STAY AT HOME!

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

TASK MAP 1

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *Rory's Lockdown Loo Roll Diary* by Justin Davies.

'Gran told us that the Romans used a communal sponge-on-a-stick to wipe their bums whilst sitting in their communal toilets, which is wrong on every level.'

- Do some research on the BBC Bitesize website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfhmrj6> and find out more about how people in the past coped before flushing toilets.
- Write a list of 5 'Pooping in the Past' facts.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *The Box* by Raman Mundair.

- What would you put in your lockdown box?
- Using recycled materials, decorate a small cardboard box. Cut paper into thin strips and write some of the things you treasure about the world. Don't forget to use adjectives!
- Put your strips of paper in your lockdown box.
- When the box is full, take the strips out and fit them all together to create a group poem. Maybe you can even make your poem rhyme!

CONNECT 4

Read the letter *Dear Grandpa* by Lindsay Littleton and talk about how it makes you feel.

Can you relate to Sam?
What do you think will happen to the characters once lockdown is over?



Write a short letter to someone you care about, telling them why you enjoy their company.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Virus Fact File* by Lawrence Dritsas.

- Do some research and find out one or two more interesting facts about viruses.
- Create a video, PowerPoint or group poster and present all those facts about viruses to an audience.

You might also like to do some research into a global pandemic in the past!

READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *Ma Name is Billy Baxter* by Alan McClure.

- Why is Billy Baxter in school when all his friends are at home?
- How does he feel about his situation? (Give evidence for your answer.)
- What does Billy mean by “the minutes flow like glue”?
- Create a short glossary, in alphabetical order, of some of the Scots words in the poem, with their meanings.

READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *Can you See the Moon?* by Raisah Ahmed.

Which parts of the Eid celebrations couldn't happen because in lockdown and which parts stayed the same? List them in your jotter.

Make an Eid Mubarak card and decorate it with stars and moons.



CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Just Another School Day* by Victoria Williamson.

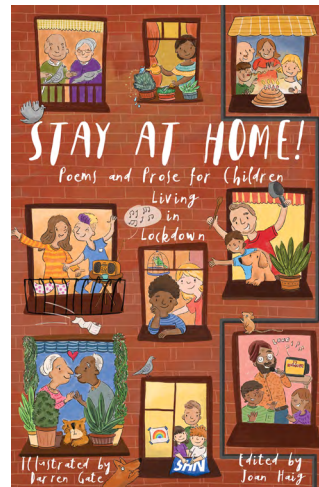
- Create a comic strip with speech bubbles and captions, showing all the crazy things that happened in *Just Another School Day*.
- Perhaps you might want to use a lift-the-flap technique to hide the fact that it's a computer game from the reader until the end of the story?

CONNECT 4

Read *I'm Bored* by Janis Mackay.



- Talk about your own lockdown experiences. What strategies did you use to relieve boredom? Did you learn any new skills?
- Learn how to play peevers and go outside and have a go!



STAY AT HOME!

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

TASK MAP 2

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *The Worst Birthday Ever* by Maisie Chan.

Did you or anyone you know have a birthday in lockdown? If so how did that make you/them feel? How did you celebrate?

Ivy's family are Scottish Chinese, and the red envelope is a birthday tradition in Chinese cultures.

Find out about interesting birthday traditions in different parts of the world, make a list and then write each tradition on a post-it note and stick them on a globe or world map.

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *The Lockdown Haircut* by Barbara Henderson.

Discuss and explain the 'twist' at the end of this story.

Drama activity:

Find some suitable props and costume items and recreate a dramatic moment in the story as a freeze-frame. Ask someone to take a photo!

CONNECT 4

Read *What Day is it Today?* by Kerry Fleming

In the poem, lockdown gets too much and tempers fray. Were there times when you lost your temper or got upset about being in lockdown?

Discuss strategies that help to calm us down when we are angry or upset. Practise some in class; listening to music, focusing on breathing, yoga stretches. There are lots of ideas here: <https://gozen.com/50-calm-down-ideas-to-try-with-kids-of-all-ages/>

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Stay At Home! is illustrated by Darren Gate.

Have a good look at the cover illustration and the small drawings throughout the book. Which ones do you like best, and why?

Choose one of the poems in Section 1 and illustrate it. If you like, you could have a go at copying Darren Gate's style of drawing.

OR

Design a new cover for *Stay At Home!* Don't forget to include the title.

READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *Walkies?* by Linda Strachan.

- What's the dog's name?
- Why do you think the mum and dad in the story have an extra vowel in their names?

Choose a pet animal and write a funny short story or diary about their experiences and feelings in lockdown.

INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Read *Dear Mr Fimple* by Pamela Butchart.

Joe Thomson writes that he misses some things about school, including "ULTIMATE TENNIS BASKETBALL (which I know we're not ALLOWED to play anymore after the time with the TREE and Bobby Grubb's LEG and the FIRE ENGINE)."

Imagine you are Joe and write a detailed account of what might have happened during that final game! Begin: "We were bored during break and Hassan suggested we play our favourite game..."

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *The Limerick To-Do List* by Laura Guthrie

A limerick is a humorous poem with five lines.

This video clip explains how to write a limerick. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4mmn39/articles/zw3yw6f>

Have a go! Write a funny limerick about an aspect of your life in lockdown or about being back at school.

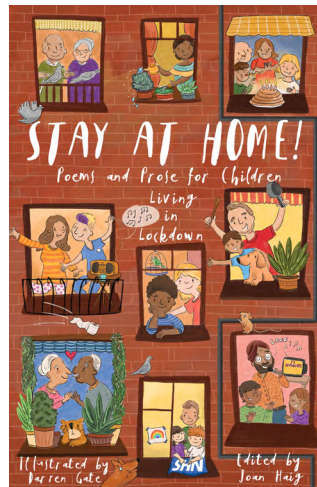
CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Hello Mr Neighbour* by Emily Ilett.

Find out about Morse Code and learn to tap out your name in code.

Ruth gives Jacob her favourite stone. Paint a pebble and give it to someone you care about as a gift.

Have a look at this video clip for inspiration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYst84-EL5s>



STAY AT HOME!

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

TASK MAP 3

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Which was your favourite piece of writing in Section 1: Lockdown Life?

- Why did you enjoy it so much? How did it make you feel?
- Could you empathise with the character's situation and/or feelings? Explain your answer.
- Do some research into the author of your favourite piece. Have they had any other work published yet? If so, you might want to read more of their writing!

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *A Lockdown Field Study* by Caroline Logan.

Pretend you are Dr Q Hogstone. Carry out a small field study somewhere in your school grounds. (If on grass, you could use a hula hoop to mark your spot. What wildlife, birds, or minibeats can you see/find?)

Write up your findings in a short journal in the style of Dr Q Hogstone.

CONNECT 4

Read *Abiba's Zoom* by Chief Chebe. If you took part in Zoom meet-ups, did you enjoy them? Explain your answer.

'The last question was about the first African city to have an underground railway station.'

Find out the answer to this question!

Listen to this expert playing djembe drums. If you have djembe drums in school, have a go!

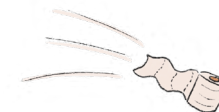
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM53LTtgwY8>

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *I Am SO Not Bored* by Chae Strathie.

Create a four-part storyboard to illustrate the 4 funny things that happened on Sunday.

Add speech bubbles and/or captions to each of your drawings.



READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *Picking the Right Pan* by Callum Heitler.

- Describe how Dot is feeling during her stay at her grandmother's house.
- Which phrase suggests Dot doesn't like being in the countryside?

Watch this video clip to find out about Pavlov and his experiments with dogs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxEMkOtB8tM>

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *Daisy's Mum* by Yasmin Hanif.

- Highlight all of the literary devices (writer's craft tools) in this poem.
- Look for **rhyme** and **rhythm**, **simile**, **metaphor**, **personification**, **expressive imagery** and **word choice**.
- Explain & discuss their effect on the reader.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

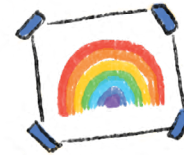
Read *Superhero* by Rachel Plummer.

- During lockdown many people were superheroes, doing vitally important jobs in challenging circumstances.
- Pick a superhero; a supermarket worker, a nurse, postal worker or paramedic, or any other key worker.
- Design a superhero costume for them with a logo. Create a gadget—one that will make their job a lot easier!

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *The Game* by Ross Sayers.

- Write a set of simple instructions for The Game. Maybe you could give it a brand-new, exciting title.
- Find a telly remote and have a go at playing. Remember that you need a BRILLIANT IMAGINATION!



STAY AT HOME!

EVERYDAY
SUPERHEROES

TASK MAP 4

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Which was your favourite piece of writing in Section 2: Everyday Superheroes?

Why did you enjoy it so much? How did it make you feel? Could you empathise with the character's situation and/or feelings?

Do some research into the author of your favourite piece. Have they had any other work published yet? If so, you might want to read more of their writing!

INFER WHAT'S NOT THERE

Read *Neighbour Hood* by Robert Harris.

- Can you guess the name of the new neighbour?
- What about the names of his three friends? Do some research if you're not sure, and see if you can work out who is who from their descriptions in the story.
- Create a colourful and detailed police 'Wanted' poster, describing the new neighbour, listing his suspected 'crimes' and offering a reward for his capture.

CONNECT 4

Read *Forgetful Fergus* by Elizabeth Laird.



- Fergus was trying to help Granny McGinty, who was stuck at home during lockdown. Lockdown has been particularly hard for elderly people. Talk about some of the difficulties they've had and about how organisations and individuals have tried to help.
- Perhaps you could make a card for an elderly person in a nursing/care home to cheer them up.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Rainbows* by Merryn Glover.

- Did seeing all the rainbows in people's windows make a difference to your own feelings during lockdown? Explain your answer.
- Make healthy Rainbow Fruit Cups and eat them outside.
- Using a torch, or outside on a sunny day, have a go at making a rainbow. You'll need a piece of white paper and a glass of water.

READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read *Stepping Out* by Alastair Chisholm.

- Who or what is narrating the story?
- How long has the voyage lasted so far?
- 'They'll see everything.' What do you think this means? Explain your answer.
- Choose one of the planets mentioned in the story and write 5 interesting facts about it.

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Read *Fossil Hunting* by Joan Haig.

A **sonnet** is a poem with 14 lines. Every second line rhymes, and it finishes with a **rhyming couplet**. Shakespeare wrote lots of sonnets and like all poetry, sonnets are best read aloud. You can hear Shakespeare's sonnets being read aloud on Youtube by Sir Patrick Stewart. People in the past used to learn poems by heart. Have a go at learning your favourite *Stay at Home!* poem and recite it to an audience.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Mouse* by Annemarie Allan and *Kite* by Philip Caveney.

Making connections with the natural world has important mental health benefits.

- Can you think of ways in which you can redesign an area of the playground to attract wildlife?
- Perhaps you could build a bug hotel, or plant a raised bed with wildflowers to attract bees and butterflies? Make a list of ideas.

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Finding Fairies* by Lari Don and *On the Roof* by Joan Lennon.

At the end of *Finding Fairies* the narrator creates a miniature book.

Write your own story about adventurous fairies or cute aliens (use some of the authors' ideas if you wish!) and make your story into a tiny, illustrated book. You might choose to 'hide' your little story books for younger pupils to find.



STAY AT HOME!
WORLD BEYOND OUR
WINDOWS

TASK MAP 5

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Read Joseph Lamb's **haiku** at the beginning of the book.

- How does it make you feel?
- Read the Joe's haiku at the end of the book.
- In what way is the tone of this haiku different from the first? Explain your answer.
- You can listen to Joe reading more haikus here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkAfrDvpPUs&t=14s>

CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Songbird* by Nayanika Basu.



Songbird is written as a playscript, and plays are intended to be acted in front of an audience.

Draw and make some bird stick puppets. Take on the roles of the blue tit and robin and act out the scene in the garden. You could become playwrights too, and write another scene for the two characters. Don't forget stage directions!

CONNECT 4

Read *A World Unlocked* by Miranda Moore.

- Did you enjoy the poem when you read it top to bottom? Why? Why not?
- Did reading from bottom to top change how you felt about the poem? In what way?
- Would you like the world to be different than it was before lockdown or to be the same? Explain your answer.



CREATE SOMETHING GREAT

Read *Gorilla on an Exercise Bike* by Alex Nye.

Expand the 'Tenement Window' outline (in pack) to A3 size, and draw everybody and everything Krishna can see from his window. Make sure you include all the details mentioned in the text and don't forget the gorilla on the exercise bike!

In the remaining windows, draw some interesting characters of your own.

