

LOST LETTERS

creative challenge #5

PICTURE POETRY

IT'S NOT
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
BUT...



As part of our Lost Letters project with Surrey History Centre, It's Not Your Birthday But... are inviting you to create a piece of word art by choosing a letter or poem, and writing in the shape of an image, object or symbol that is referenced within it.

You could choose a poem that you like, or a letter that you have received to create your picture poetry with. Or perhaps you could try writing your own poem to work with.

Looking at the archives we discovered several poems written by Mr Jim Forge in 1940 whilst he was serving in India. This example is taken from his poem 'To An Umbrella', which was entered into the Manchester Guardian Competition 25:

Symbol of Power, borne high in state,
Behind an Eastern Potentate.
Butt of blunt wit & foolish jest
When brought from Cathay to the West.

"To An Umbrella, Symbol of Power, borne high in state, Behind an Eastern Potentate. Butt of blunt wit and foolish jest When brought from Cathay to the West. Token on one man's vain endeavour To hold a crumbling world together. You now shall come when, ringed by foes Alone, undaunted Britain shows. A world by Tyrants renewed The lamp is mightier than the Sword."



TASK...

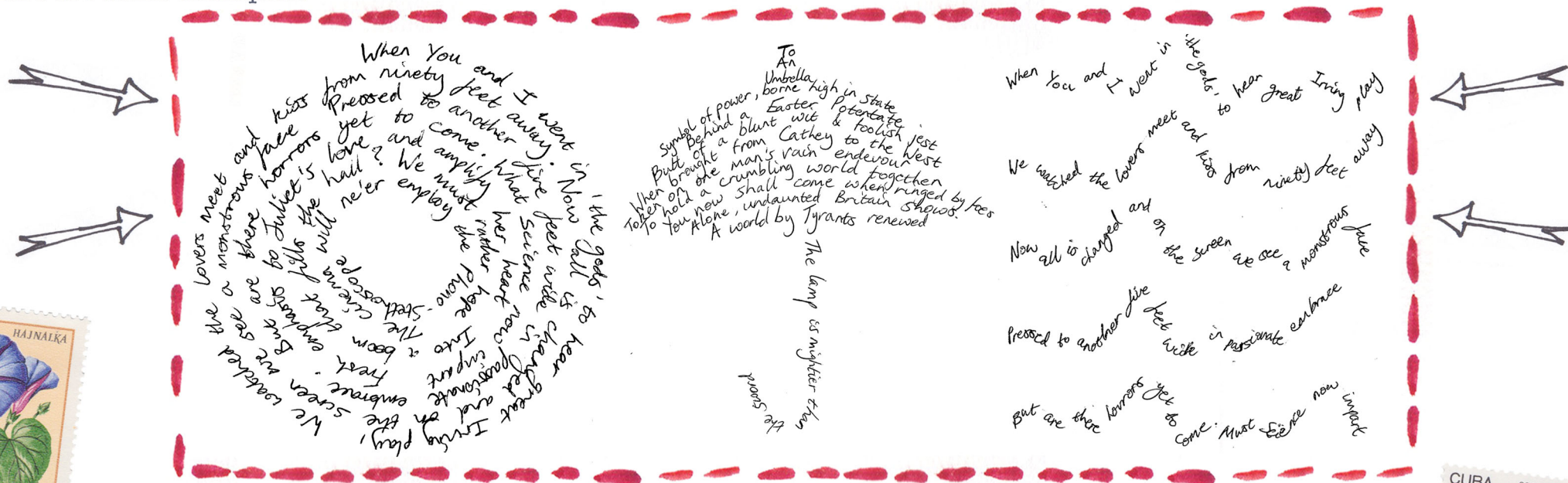
Create your own piece of word art with Picture Poetry



Choose a poem or letter to work with and think about what is being said. You could use the poem 'To An Umbrella' by Mr Jim Forge from the archives, or choose a different one that you like.

Is your poem speaking about a specific subject? Think of the main object or image from your story or letter, what shape does it evoke? Is it a love letter? Could you create your picture poetry in the shape of a heart?

Here are some examples:



Sketching the outline of your chosen shape first is a good idea, so that you can work out how big your writing will need to be. You might want to add colour to your work with paints or pencils.

Mr Jim Forge wrote about objects around him as well as inventions of the time. Are there any objects or inventions from today that you could write about? How would you describe them to future generations?



SHARE...

Challenge created by: Nadine Fletcher
Design by: Nicole Cowan



Share your Picture Poetry artwork with us. By sending your work to us it may be shared online, in a touring exhibition, and/or donated to the Surrey History Centre to be stored in the archives.

The more original artwork we receive, the richer our collection will be. We would be grateful if you could take a picture of your Picture Poetry piece and post it online:



itsnotyourbirthdaybut



@INYBB_



It's Not Your Birthday But

or email it to:

itsnotyourbirthdaybut@gmail.com



and then post your original to us at:



INYBB, The Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach,
Hinchley Wood, Surrey, KT10 0SR



We recognise that not everyone can make it to a postbox or a post office at the current time, so if you are unable to post it, it is fine to just post it online or email it to us. If you need help with postage costs, please get in touch.



**HERITAGE
FUND**

Thanks to the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Lost Letters is a project working with people across Surrey, thinking about local history and letters. The Picture Poetry artwork will be stored in Surrey History Centre so that people in the future will understand what people were doing in 2020.