



Beautiful Buildings: Guided Poem Worksheet

By Sophie Sparham for the 'Derwent Delights' project

Task one) Watch the Beautiful Buildings videos and choose a photo of a building that you like. Imagine yourself in/outside that building when you are writing this poem. You will need to decide if you're in/ outside of the building in present day or in the past. For example, you might want to be in Strutt's Mill when it was still in operation.

If you're on a computer, it might help to google the building to get a better idea of what it looks like if you're unfamiliar with it.

Below is a list of ten prompts. Each prompt is for each line of your poem. You can interpret each prompt as much or as little as you like. Remember, they are there to get you started, not limit you.

Give yourself two minutes for each line. If you're unsure or don't like the line, you can go back and edit the poem at the end.

1. Describe your place using one of the five senses – use it to set the scene
2. Look to see if there are any patterns in the building and describe them in more detail. E.g. wood carving, ceiling beams, the brickwork, a door
3. Mention something the building was used for/ is used for if you're writing about it as though you're in the past.
4. Imagine what something would feel like if you ran your hand across it and describe it – aka a door, stone etc.
5. Question what the world would be like if this building didn't exist
6. Use this line to talk about who worked / work in this building
7. Say something specific about the place you are in. E.g. focus on something in detail, the shape of the leaves or the type of flower you think you can see
8. Does the building have any distinct features? Choose one and describe it e.g. a clock, a window, a water wheel etc.
9. Write about why you came here
10. Finish the poem on a question or statement about the building

Task two)

Once you've finished your poem, edit what you have written.

Think about:

- If you want to change any of the lines or lose lines which no longer seem relevant.
- If you want to change direction of the poem.
- If you want to add lines.
- If you want to use a line as a springboard to write a completely different poem.

If you need to, take a step back and make a cup of tea then return to the poem before editing. Sometimes it's good to give our brains breathing space before we begin the editing process.

