

**LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME  
SEGMENTS POETRY WORKSHOP  
APRIL 2020 : THE VINYL REVOLUTION!**

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**EXERCISE ONE: A warm-up writing exercise called A Window Into Our Lives**

Position yourself by a window and describe the view you can see in detail. It is important you really study the view and absorb yourself in it. Your description must include something near to you; something in the distance; something you haven't noticed before; something that isn't there – be as imaginative as you like about this!

**EXERCISE TWO: As it would have been World Record Store Day on Saturday 18th April (now postponed until 20th June 2020), the theme for this writing exercise is THE VINYL REVOLUTION / MUSIC MACHINES**

Here are some pictures of my record player, Sony Walkman, CD player and iPod, as well as some LP records including my mum's *Me and my Shadows* (Cliff Richard and the Shadows) record from 1960, my Nan's 1957 yellow vinyl LP *Holiday in Italy* and the original movie soundtrack to *Saturday Night Fever* (1977)!



Make notes about these items – your thoughts, feelings, memories that are evoked by the items and your associations with the theme in general.

Now read the following poems: Ode To The Vinyl Record – Thomas R. Smith

<https://wordsoftheyear.com/2015/11/01/ode-to-the-vinyl-record-by-thomas-r-smith/> Your Record

Store – Liz Ahl <https://lizahl.wordpress.com/2015/04/17/a-poem-for-record-store-day-2015/> and

Ode To A Record Player – John Neesan <http://www.teenink.com/poetry/all/article/68705/Ode-to-a-Record-Player/>

**EXERCISE THREE: Writing About THE VINYL REVOLUTION / MUSIC MACHINES**

Your task is to write a poem inspired by the items and/or the theme. Here are some suggestions:

Write a personification poem from the point of view of one of the items. Write your poem imagining the object is 'alive' and has the same attributes as a human being. What would it say? Think about the function of the object, where it is situated, what it sees, smells, hears, touches etc. What does it think about/dream about? What are its memories? What are its ambitions?

Write a poem inspired by the items and/or theme that evokes a personal memory for you.

Write an ode (love poem) to one of the items. Make it as over-the-top as you like!

Write a poem in the style and form of one of the example poems. Think about the form of the poem and how it fits with what the poem is saying. Does it suit the poem to have verses? Does it work better using rhyme schemes or in free verse?

Write a poem about the items and/or the theme in your own way and your own style!

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