

For all Creative Writers and Readers (including the Mining your Memories gang)

by Louise McIvor

Exercise 1 – Creative Writing ‘prompt’

The yard was filled with giant wooden spools of electrical cable. Angelique knelt on the ground to catch her breath, feeling the rough tarmac, pitted with dandelions and weeds. The cold Easter wind blew through the barbed wire fence. At the far end, there was a row of rusted shipping containers. Could she take shelter there? Just then, Angelique heard a cough, smelt cigarette smoke and rushed to hide.

Now write what happens next. Just relax and let the story come ☺.

Exercise 2 – Daily Observations

We are living through a unique time and no-one in living memory has experienced such a ‘pandemic’. It can be useful to keep a **diary**. Try to write **one observation** each day. It could be something you have seen on your daily walk or in your garden. If you have a camera on your phone, you can even snap a picture, which can help to inspire you as you write.

Here are a few examples from my own diary:

- Two little feral cats came up to say hello to me today. I stood for a moment, hoping they would come a bit closer.
- I noticed a white flower growing beside the dandelions under the trees. Was that wild garlic? Must look it up.

Exercise 3 – every picture tells a story

If you have access to the internet, it can be fun to look through random **pictures**, pick one and then **write for 10 minutes**, prompted by anything the picture inspires.

My favourite sites include **Pinterest** <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/> but type in a specific search – for example, I will put ‘old houses’ and see what comes up.

The **BBC news website** also has a section called ‘in pictures’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in_pictures

Please note that the web sites recommended are the personal opinion of the tutor