

Teachers' Notes

The resources in this project are intended to be used by primary schools to help students write creative writing pieces inspired by objects from The MERL's collection. The *51 Voices* project is funded by Arts Council England and is intended to bring museums to people who are unable to visit them during lockdown.

We invite schools to choose their best entries to share them with us by **Friday 26th March**. Entries will then be collated and will form one of the voices for each of the objects and displayed as part of our *51 Voices* project. Please submit your entries via email to The MERL Learning Team at merlevents@reading.ac.uk

If there are any additional resources you can think of which might help you with this project please contact Clare Rees through the MERL Learning Team at merlevents@reading.ac.uk.

The resource pack contains five different activities. It is intended that these might represent a week's worth of lessons. Each activity contains at least one video, but also worksheets.

Project goal: Students should each produce one creative piece inspired by an object from the museum. This piece should be less than 500 words.

Activity 1:

Students choose their object and start thinking about what sort of story/history it might suggest. They can either watch the '**object videos**' (there are 10- each between 1-3 minutes long) or read the '**Mysterious objects**' sheet. They start considering ideas. They can use the '**My object**' sheet to do this.

Activity 2:

Students write the plan for their creative writing, in the form of a '**story mountain**'. This is introduced in the **video**, and there is a worksheet available. Characters are also discussed.

Activity 3:

Students consider '**opening lines**'. **Video** and worksheet available.

Activity 4:

Students consider '**gorgeous descriptions**'. They should be mainly writing their piece, but there will be a look at their object again, and a **video** briefly discussing the senses and objects.

Activity 5:

Students consider 're-drafting' and editing. There is a video, but they could also use the '**success criteria**' sheet.