

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Watch a poetry performance again

- Watch the performance of ‘The Great Realisation’, following the words as you do.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4&t=5s>
- Use the *Sorting Table* to note down all the positive and negative images and ideas that you can find in this poem. Can you find some ideas that are a mix of positive and negative?

2. Think about a possible future

- Think about how you would like the future for the world to be.
- Try to think of six hopes. Record them with words and pictures on *What kind of future?*

3. Write a persuasive letter

- Plan a letter to your MP about the future that you would like for the world, using the *Planning Guide*.
- Carefully write your letter. You can find out your MP and their address here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Well done. Show your letter to a grown-up. Explain your ideas to them. You could send your letter to your MP, if you would like to.

Try the Fun-Time Extra

Interview other people about their six hopes for the future of the world. Are there any you share? What could you do to help them to happen?

The Great Realisation

*Tell me the one about the virus again
Then, I'll go to bed*

But my boy you're growing weary,
sleepy thoughts about your head

*Please that one is my favourite
I promise, just once more*

Okay, snuggle down my boy
though I know you know full well
the story starts before then
in a world I once would dwell.

It was a world of waste and wonder
of poverty and plenty
back before we understood
why hindsight's 2020.

You see the people came up with
companies
to trade across all lands
but they swelled and got much bigger
than we ever could have planned.

We'd always had our wants
but now it got so quick
you could have anything you dreamed of
in a day and with a click.

We noticed families that stopped talking
that's not to say they never spoke
but the meaning must have melted
and the work-life balance broke.



And the children's eyes grew square
and every toddler had a phone,
they filtered out the imperfections
but amidst the noise; they felt alone.

and every day the skies grew thicker
till we couldn't see the stars
so we flew in planes to find them
while down below we filled our cars.

we'd drive around all day in circles
we'd forgotten how to run
we swapped the grass for tarmac
Shrunk the parks till there were none.

we filled the sea with plastic
because our waste was never capped
until each day when you went fishing
you'd pull them out already wrapped

and while we drank, smoked and
gambled
our leaders taught us why
it's best to not upset the lobbies
or convenient to die.

but then in 2020
a new virus came our way
the governments reacted
and told us all to hide away.

But while we all were hidden
amidst the fear and all the while
people dusted off their instincts
they remembered how to smile.

they started clapping to say thank you
and calling up their mums
and while the car keys gathered dust
they would look forward to their runs.

and with the skies less full of voyagers
the earth began to breathe
and the beaches bore new wildlife
that scuttled off into the seas.

some people started dancing
some were singing, some were baking
we'd grown so used to bad news
but some good news was in the making.

and so when we found the cure
and were allowed to go outside
we all preferred the world we found
to the one we'd left behind

old habits became extinct
and they made way for the new
and every simple act of kindness
was now given its due.

*but why did it take a virus
to bring the people back together?*
sometimes you've got to get sick my boy
before you start feeling better

now lie down and dream of tomorrow
and all the things that we can do
and who knows if you dream hard enough
maybe some of them will come true

we now call it the great realization
and yes since then there have been many
but that's the story of how it started
and why hindsight's 2020.

By Tom Roberts

Sorting Table

Negatives	Uncertain	Positives
<i>Families stopped talking</i> <i>Filled the seas with plastic</i>	<i>A world of waste and wonder</i>	<i>The earth began to breathe</i>

What kind of future?

Planning Guide

Who? What? Why? When? Where?

Title: I am arguing that

Intro

My first point...

Give ideas which support your points.

My second point...

My last point...

In conclusion...

Remind your reader what you have been persuading them to do

Letter to MP

A large rectangular area for writing a letter, enclosed by a decorative border. The border consists of a repeating orange zigzag pattern with small black dots. The interior of the rectangle is white and contains 20 horizontal grey lines for writing, starting from the top and ending at the bottom.