

THE *silent* UNWINDING

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Notes BY *Eva John*

the silent Unwinding



These images invite your own individual response, but if you find the open space intimidating and lack the confidence to make your mark, here are some suggestions, prompts, encouragements to record your ideas, to use or reject, as you wish.



Write a haiku, tanka or naga-uta for each picture you feel drawn to, paying attention to the seasons, time of day, the qualities of nature, mood and sensory perceptions. Careful editing within confines is conducive to creativity!

HAIKU: A 3-LINE POEM OF
5 SYLLABLES, 7 SYLLABLES, 5 SYLLABLES.
USE THE TITLE TO ADD TO
THE DESCRIPTION.

TANKA: A 5-LINE POEM OF
31 SYLLABLES: 5, 7, 5, 7 AND 7

NAGA-UTA: POEM WHICH HAS
NO SET NUMBER OF LINES, BUT EACH
LINE CONTAINS EITHER 5 OR 7 SYLLABLES,
ALTERNATING UNTIL YOU FINISH WITH
TWO 7 SYLLABLE LINES.

Shape-shift as you dip into this book,
exploring thoughts, words, images in
a body not your own.

one

Create a title for
the curtained scene.



Reflect on white and the
quality of light. Explore
the nuances of different
shades and strengths of
white and light, collecting
associated words and
ideas to play with.

You could gradually
introduce threads of
different colours which
may have particular
significance.



Does this image make
you feel solitary or lonely?
Does the landscape fill
you with fear or wonder?



Create titles for the books.
Entice the reader:
*'Within these volumes
you will find...'*



What is the story of the
holly-wreathed bear?



What is the story of
the parasol lady?

How do they
intertwine?

two

Transport a toy or object to an unlikely imaginary landscape.



Focus on the detail as you write/paint/ draw/ compose/create.

Write a private conversation that takes place below the willow boughs.



The ties that bind: a restriction or a release?
In the past or the present, or a possible future?
The controller or the controlled?



Capture the lady's mood.

Snow dragons – create a poem, story, picture, film or piece of music to evoke this dreamlike anomaly.

three

TRANSFORMATION:
air on scales, fins and tails

Tell how this fish feels in flight.

Dream a creature of your own
into being in words, images or
music, creating their myth.



'From sea to sky,
from fish to flight.'
Where are you venturing
and what can you see?

four

'Midnight Musing' or 'Sense Shimmer'

Choose the viewpoint:
lady, bear, hare, and write of what
you hear, see, smell, taste, feel.



Purposeful travelling:
where to, where from?



What is the significance of
one swallow, two hares?

Design a decorated
tabard for a hare.

Night travels: the significance
of two swallows, three hares.
Create the sensation of travelling
in a moonlit landscape,
the sights, scents and sounds.



Picture the bear's waking dream
in words, music or image.



five

Collect as many words as possible that alliterate with fox and create an evocation of fox in the landscape.



Write / draw / compose about seeking solace in solitude and how close observation soothes the soul.



'A crown for the moon' – create a poem, a detailed design or a story.



Create a wild gift, a token of love.



Respond to the idea:
Interconnections – the expected and unexpected.



six

Choose whether to use
two adjectives, a simile or metaphor
to complete these lines:

The { *scent*
sound
taste
sight
touch } of snow...

Snow amongst slender
lengths of silver.
What is hidden within?

Land or ocean?
Which connection
is stronger?

The fabric of dreams:
interweave the dreams
of bear and lady. It could
become a dream dialogue.



seven

Meditations and musings, allow your mind to wander through the four earth elements of water, earth, air and fire and draw or write your imaginings.



Flying and floating: directly compare the medium of air with water, collecting words to describe the sensations of movement.



The tail of a tale: create some last lines of stories, evoking different moods.



As you step out, what thoughts are tethered to your mind?

eight

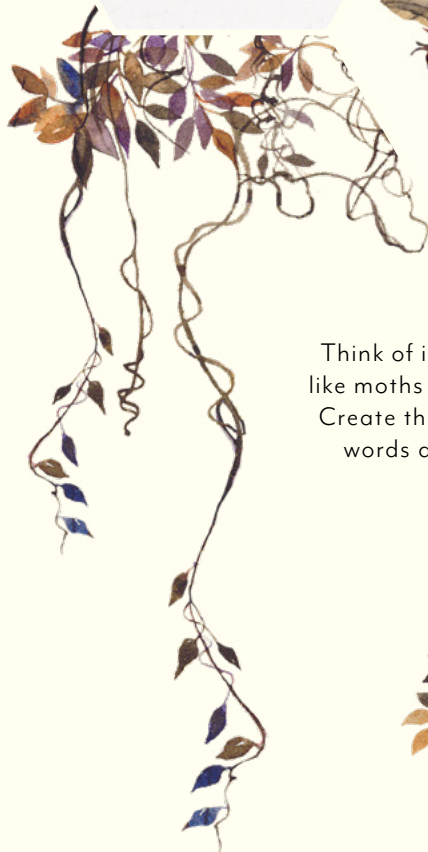
Envisage a precious, delicate gift. How will you protect it on its journey?



Create your own designs of seeds and fruits which form part of the pattern of nature. Sprinkle your design with vocabulary fronds.



Think of impossibilities, like moths in snowscapes. Create these pairings in words and pictures.



Foods for the soul: describe or draw these, rich in detail.

nine

Secrecy: the silent
wonderings of the mind
in the depths of night.



Choose which to explore:

The balance between

safety
boredom
stillness
silence

and

danger
excitement
action
sound



Twilight musings
on the day.

Devise a recipe to
ensure immersive warmth
of body and soul.

ten

The transportation parasol:
where does it take you?



Create a song to
the moth-winged hare.



Lanterns light the way to ...



Define the designated
roles of the
processional creatures.



Illuminating ...



eleven



Create a barn owl
observation log entry.



Winged dogs scent...



Create a bear's entry in
the dragon-ship journal.



Where to?

twelve

What news does
the wren bring?



What has the
hare noticed?



'Silence and space':
create a story, poem,
film, picture, piece of
music, with this in mind.

Think of a time when
you've really enjoyed
and been exhilarated
by the joy of movement
and convey that sense
through word, music
or image.



Autumn leaves in a winter
landscape. The cloth of
gold envelops a life of ...

thirteen

Write or draw of longing
and searching.



Imagine venturing
beyond boundaries.
Which boundaries are they?
Who imposes them?



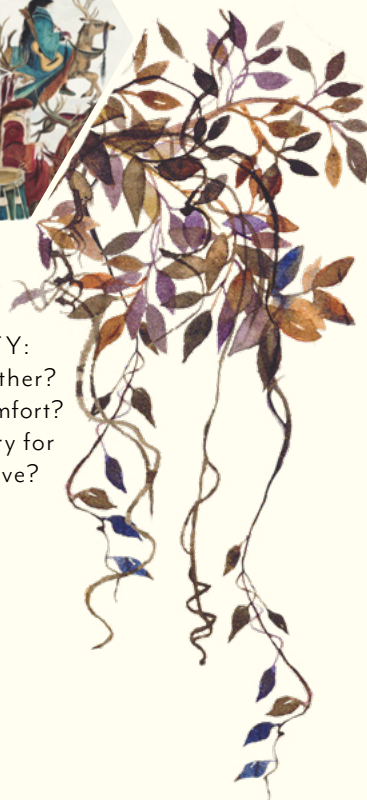
Why is it necessary
to venture beyond
the familiar?



Map out or write of
the possibilities, the
expanse of the future.



COMMUNITY:
what binds together?
What provides comfort?
What is necessary for
a society to thrive?



fourteen

*'Fretwork of fragility,
the delicacy of dreams.'*
Explore these ideas.

Create an aubade
or morning song.

Create a response to
the beauty of the night,
the expanse of stars,
the expanse of eternity.



blessing

Consider nature's balance,
the interconnectedness
of life and a sense of awe
entwined with responsibility.



Which wild things bring
you personal peace?
Create a celebration of these.



FINAL CHALLENGE:

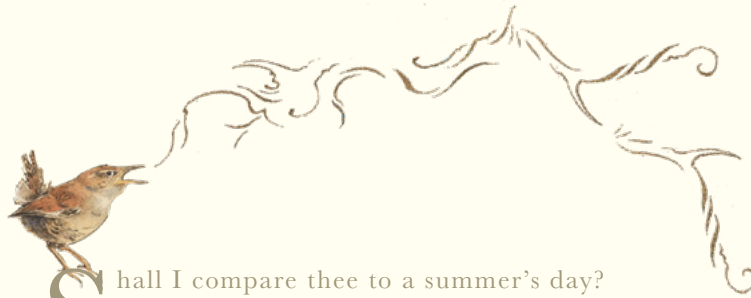
Choose an image or set of images that particularly speak to you and write a sonnet (or series of sonnets) from the point of view of one (or more) of the characters depicted.

Sonnets traditionally have themes such as love, jealousy, beauty, the passage of time, death.

SONNET FORM:

- A 14-line poem usually written in iambic pentameter
- A sonnet usually consists of two parts: an eight-line section (the octet) followed by a six-line section (a sestet).
- Iambic pentameter: a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable
- Structure: the last two lines of the sestet are a couplet and the final words in each of the couplet's lines rhyme with each other.
- The Shakespearean sonnet rhyme scheme is ABAB CDCD EFEF GG.
- Sonnets use figurative language, metaphors, similes, and imagery to convey a message, which is usually more directly said in the last two rhyming lines.

See how this applies to Shakespeare's Sonnet 18:



Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

