



Creativity Works - At Home

Voyage Around Your Room *A Creative Writing Prompt* from Christina Sanders

Voyage Around Your Room

This creative prompt is by Christina Sanders, a local writer, who supports Writing Space, one of our peer-led groups.

Inspired by Xavier de Maistre who was placed under house-arrest in Turin in 1870 for fighting an illegal duel.

De Maistre decided to make the most of his sentence by writing about his room as if he was exploring it on his travels. His 42 days of confinement resulted in a manuscript that became: *Voyage Autour De Ma Chambre* or in English, *Voyage Around My Room*.

Use the prompts below to see your home as a source of inspiration – How well do you know it?

Often the things we know best, we look at least. Do you ever think about how you get from one room to another, or the stories behind the furniture and objects around you?

What you'll need:

Voyage Around Your Room
- Watch the video!

- Paper
- Pen
- Objects from around your home that have meaning for you e.g - something lovely, something old or new a gift...etc..



Go on a voyage around your home and be inspired by the objects that surround you with this fun prompt.

The Prompts

Take three minutes and write about the following:

- Think about how you get from one room to another
- What do you see? What distracts you?
- Describe one view from a window from memory
- Describe one lovely thing/one ugly thing/one old thing /one new thing – where did it come from? What memories or associations does it hold?

Xavier de Maistre had a 'manservant' and a dog in his lockdown.

Take 10 minutes and write about the below – either choose one task or combine them to see what happens...

- Think about the living things (not people) sharing your space – plants, dogs, cats, spiders, ants etc., and describe them. Do you welcome, nurture or try to eradicate them?
- Describe your home (one room or entire home) as (A) a detective might describe it – or (B) it might appear in a travel guide. What details would they pick out to describe who lived there?
- Your servant (or dog) wakes you very early one morning to tell you....



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Christina used this plant and pot as her inspiration:

The plant was a house warming gift from my mother; the buds shot crimson in the December afternoon.

The house I rented was gloomy with shadow and chilly corners, wind rattled through the sash windows and moaned in the chimney.

The pot also found its way into the house, rather than being chosen.

It was part of an unlovely hoard left beside a garden wall, 'Free, please take'. I walked past a few times, willing it to be gone. I liked its murky blue glaze, but the shape was ugly, and the little patterns floating around the top seemed childish. Days later, when everything else, apart from a box of bent spoons, had gone, it was still there. What could I do?

I had no purpose for it as I carried it home, but there was the plant, coaxed back to a few green shoots. They seemed to belong together, in the way of stray cats and their owners, or found hats or gloves.

What will your own 'Voyage Around Your Room' inspire you to create?

Writing Space

If you live in B&NES and would like to join Writing Space please contact philippa@creativityworks.org.uk



You can use anything as your prompts...

Want to know more?

If you want to know more about Xavier de Maistre's Journey Around My Room, take a look at: [Journey Around My Room](#)

For an example of a poem by Norman Nicholson which beautifully demonstrates how you can evoke an entire world through focusing on one object visit: [Poem](#)

