

# Finding and communicating your inspiration

Dr Hannah Stevens  
& Dr Will Buckingham



WIND&BONES

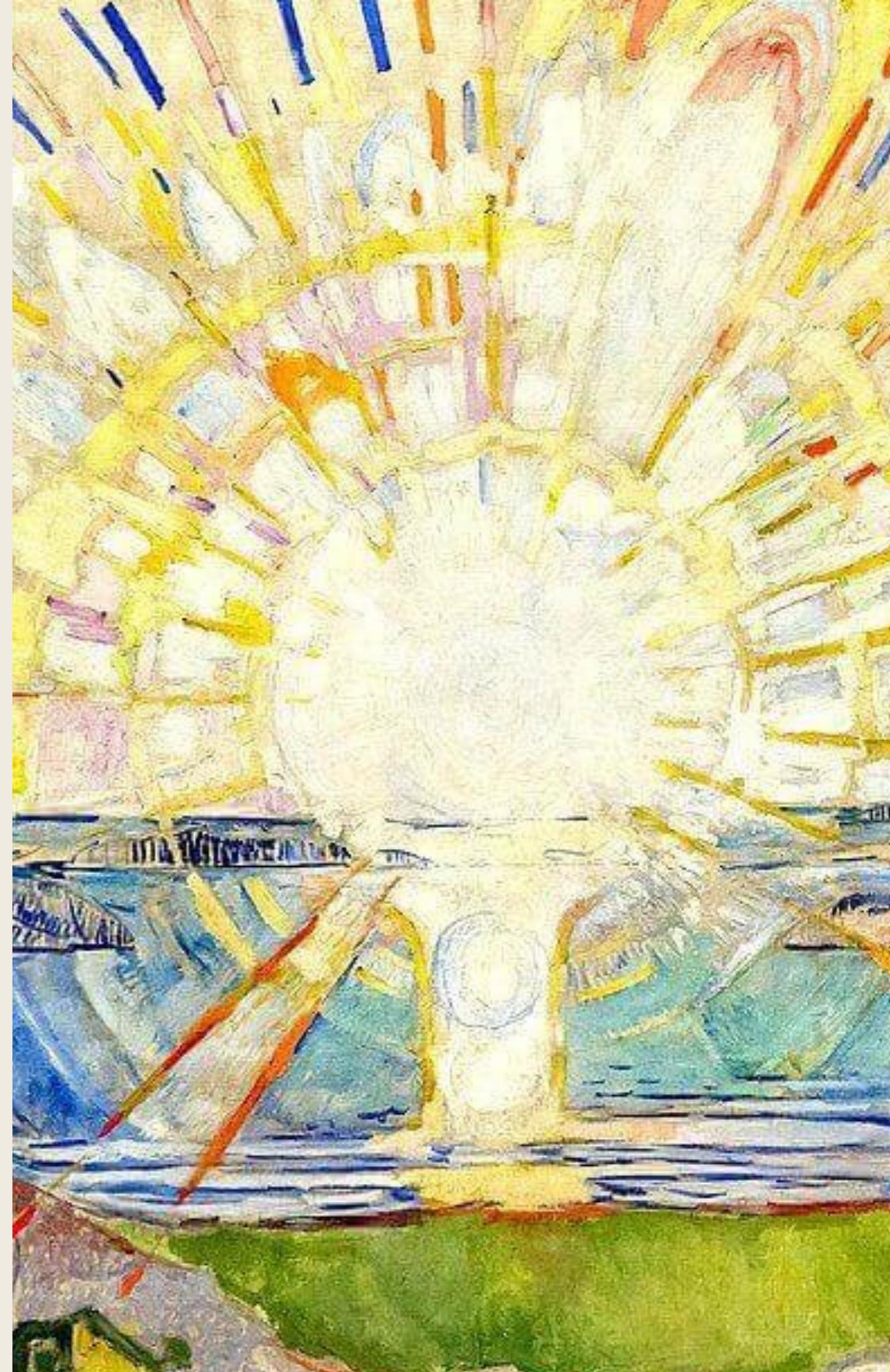


# Finding and communicating your inspiration

Today, we'll be talking about how to find and communicate your inspiration and interests.

We'll introduce our work as writers, storytellers and mentors.

Then we'll get you to connect with your own inspiration and work on communicating this inspiration to others.





# About Hannah

Dr. Hannah Stevens

PhD in creative writing from the University of Leicester

PhD research on missing people in the UK and Ireland

PhD research published as a collection of stories, *In Their Absence* (Roman Books 2021), now also translated into Bulgarian language.

Currently working on a book, *On the Bodies of Strangers*.

Faculty at Parami University (Myanmar)

# About Will

Dr. Will Buckingham

PhD in philosophy from the University of Staffordshire

PhD research on the ethics of storytelling

Author of 13 books, most recently,  
*Hello, Stranger* (Granta 2021/2)

Also publishes philosophy, children's books, novels, and nonfiction.

Currently working on a book,  
*Sliding Doors: the Enigma of Choice and the Rise and Rise of Divination.*

Faculty at Parami University  
(Myanmar)





# Wind&Bones

Nonprofit organisation registered in Scotland.

Running workshops exploring writing, creativity and social change.

Our name comes from the writer Liu Xie (劉勰) and his *Wenxin diaolong* (文心雕龍).

Good writing needs wind (風) and bone (骨).

We believe that writing is, first and foremost, about communication!

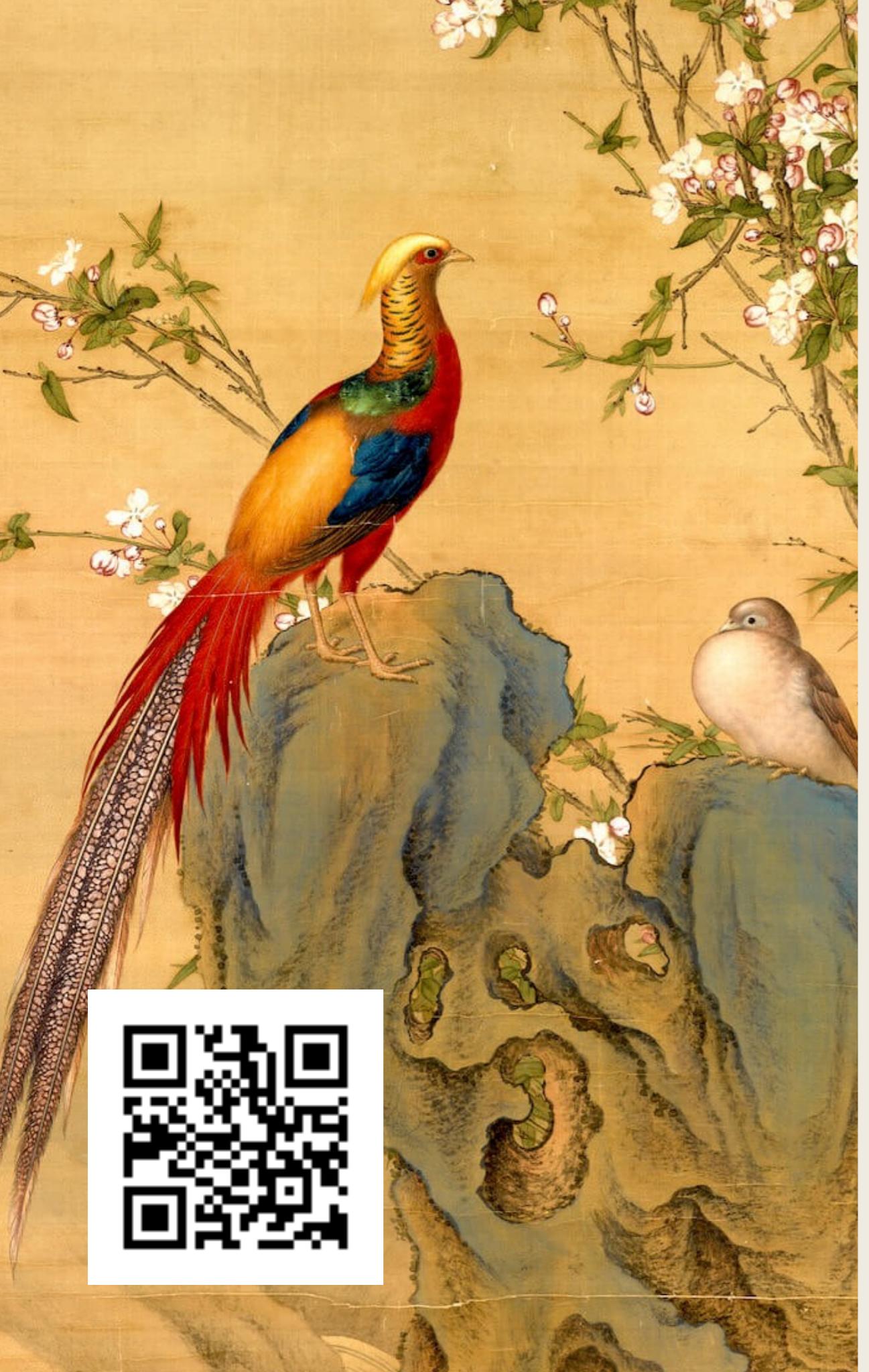
We've worked all over the world:  
Myanmar, Thailand, Bulgaria,  
Ireland, the UK.

# Wind&Bones projects

Awakening Between the Lines /  
Пробуждане между редовете  
(2022-3) with Emprove  
Foundation (Bulgaria), working  
with survivors of domestic abuse.

Working with refugee writers in  
Bulgaria, with the Goethe Institut.



A traditional Chinese painting on gold leaf. A golden pheasant with vibrant red, blue, and green feathers stands on a large, craggy rock. To its right, a smaller dove sits on a branch. The background is filled with delicate blossoms and leaves.

# Wind&Bones Projects (Will)

Dragon Carving for Writers: A writing and translation project with writers in the UK and China, exploring the *Wenxin diaolong* in contemporary context.

Nourishing Tainan: A residency at the Nanning literary house (南寧文學·家), exploring food and stories in Tainan.

Philosophy salon at Wansha Performing Arts Centre (涴莎藝術展演中心) – next salon this Saturday at 2.30 pm



# Mentoring (Hannah)

Professor Carla Nappi (an expert on Qing dynasty texts and the Manchu language).

*The Elizabeths*, a set of short stories exploring historical women called Elizabeth, combining Carla's training as a historian, and fictional storytelling.





# Mentoring (Will)

Angela Steinne, *Mummified*  
(Manchester University Press 2023).

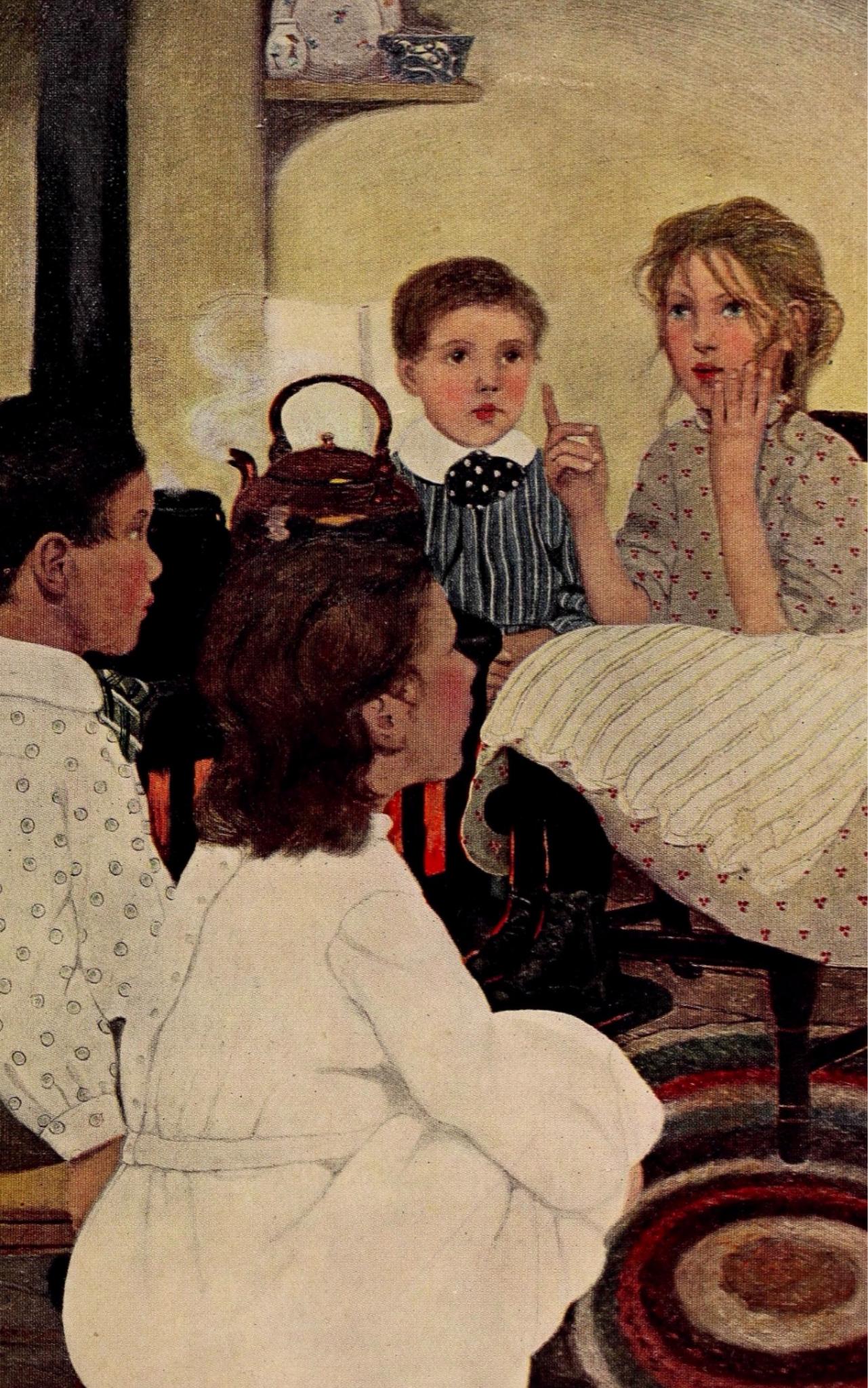
An exploration of the Egyptian mummy, its significance in European cultures, and the history of racism and colonialism of which it is a part.



# Any Questions?

We're going to move on to do some interactive writing! But before we do, are there any questions about us and our work?





# Writing is Communication!

Sometimes, when wrestling with the blank page, we forget that writing is about communication.

One way of reminding us of this is by returning to something very ordinary and everyday and human: face-to-face communication.

So that is what we are going to do!

# From Scholars to Storytellers

We're going to ask you a series of questions, and get you to write in response to these questions.

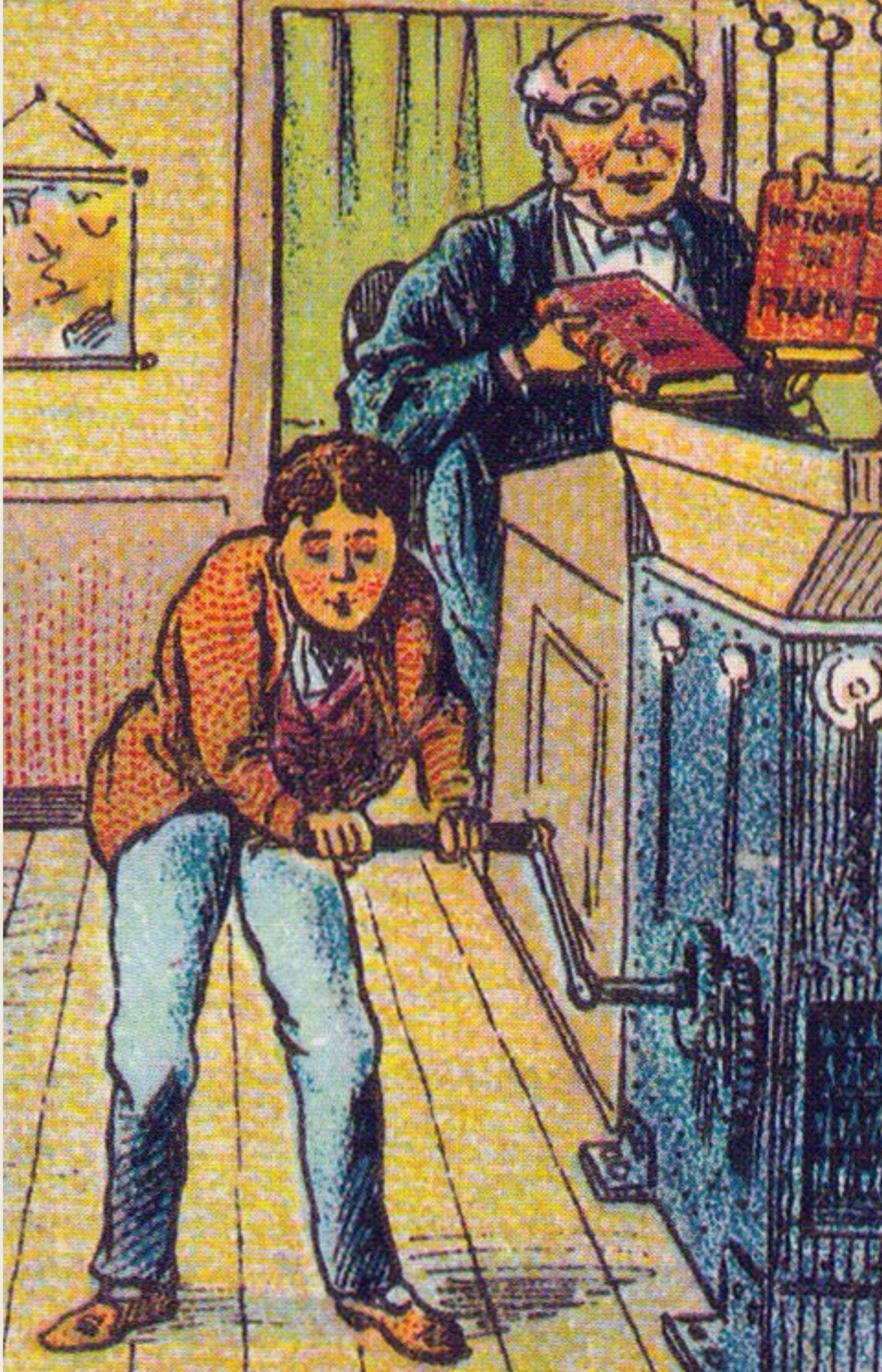
What is your obsession? What do you love? This may be as a scholar, or it may be something outside your work (baking the perfect cake, for example)?

What do you love about this thing?

When and how did this obsession start?

What impact does this obsession have on your life?

Why should it matter to others?





# Exploring our Obsessions

Now, we're going to ask you to talk about your obsessions in pairs.

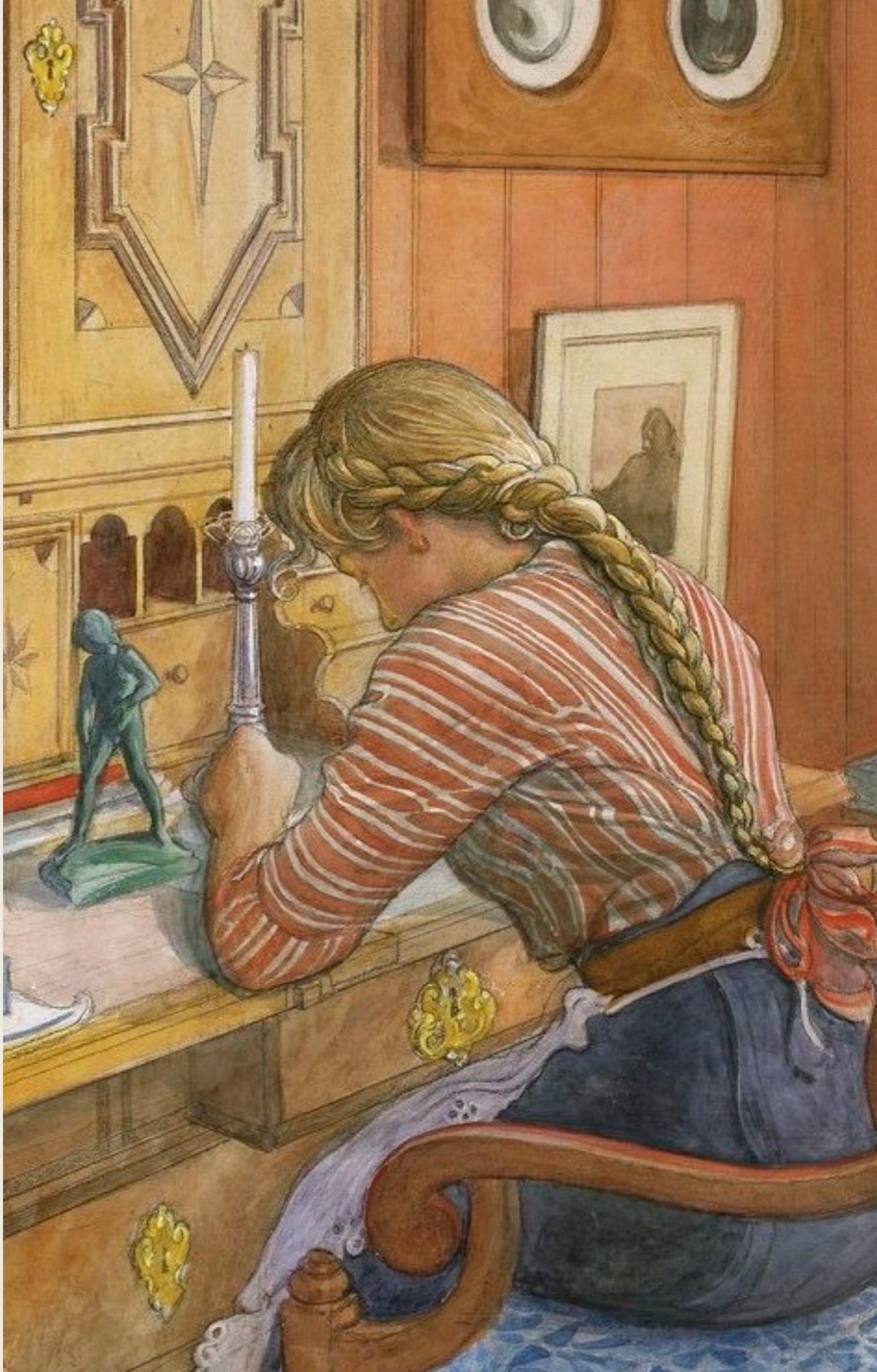
Leave your notebooks behind! And get talking!

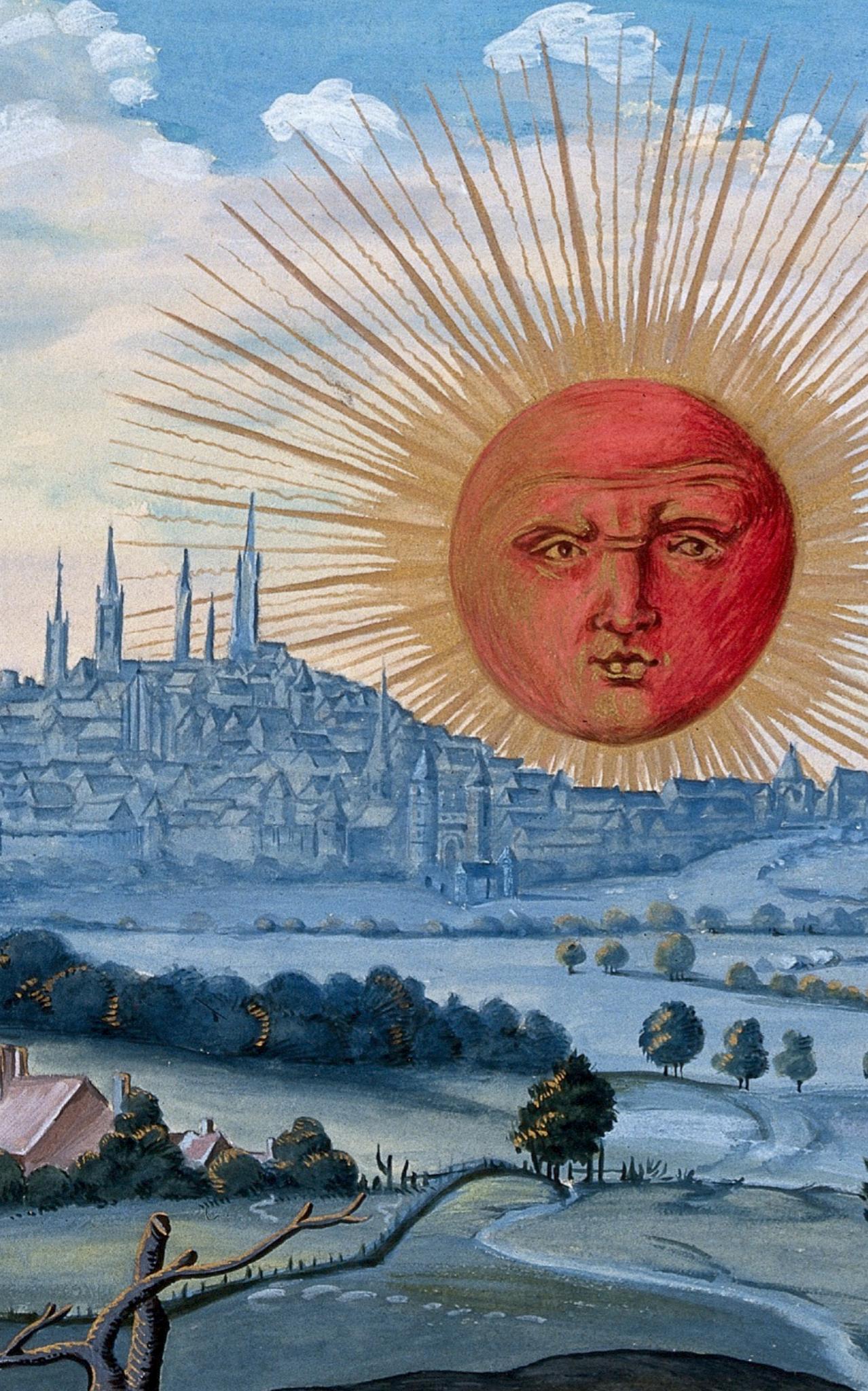
# Get writing!

Now, we're going to get you writing.

As you write, keep the sense of communication, enthusiasm and energy that you had when talking face to face.

Write in natural, conversational language! Keep in mind the face of the person you were talking to as you write.





# Sharing our writing and our inspiration

We have time for volunteers to share their writing and their inspiration!

# Finding and communicating your inspiration

A Wind&Bones workshop

Dr. Hannah Stevens  
& Dr. Will Buckingham

Thank you!

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