

TeachingLive - After School Club

SESSION 1 Summer Term - NOTES

Monday 27th September 2021

What the children need: a writing journal, writing equipment and tablet per pupil or in pairs/threes and a screen at the front of the class that everyone can see.

Oral Game –modeled by the team and then played in pairs orally – no tablet needed at this point. This week – an animal alphabet, e.g.

A is an ant

B is a bear

C is a cat

D is a dingo

Guest slot – This week we chat with James Carter, author of a number of great books for teachers about teaching writing as well as editor of anthologies, a poet and author of nonfiction books. James will be talking about and reading a couple of model poems from his collection ‘Weird, wild and wonderful’. Teaching notes for both poems are included in the other documents attached. They can be downloaded here:

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NPD-2020-James-Carter-Resource.pdf>

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Which-Wild-One-James-Carter.pdf>

It helps if the children have the two poems below available to look at while James is reading and to refer to when responding.

Which creature would you be?

Today I'd choose a whale. We all need
to roam and there's no greater space

than an ocean – a galaxy of salt water
right here on earth. And who wouldn't
want to be that great hulk of life? To see

in sound, to talk in song, to cruise the blue
or lose yourself in endless days of play:
lurching skywards, flopping backwards,

ever huffing lung-loads of warm air
back into the world. Tell me:
which other beast is as wise

as the moon, has the heart of a star –
or a belly full of memories
from way back when?

© James Carter from *Weird, Wild & Wonderful - the poetry world of James Carter* Published by Otter-Barry Books (January 2021)

She watches the world

through star-gold eyes:

with awe but mostly
suspicion; she'll sniff

at the air, she'll wait,
she'll listen, she'll sense

the slightest footfall;
she'll skulk through the night

in her old winter coat
beneath an ocean of sky;

she'll leap over snow
with limbs as fleet

as the wind's invisible wings;
she'll follow the promise

of even the wisp
of a meal.

Here in my dreams,
those darkest woods,

nothing bewitches me
more than her:

that great grey wolf.

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Padlet – Children write a response to the poems. They might comment on:

- **likes** – word choices, images, ideas
- **puzzles** – things that seem a mystery
- **connections** – links with other pieces of writing
- **memories** – has anything ever happened like this
- **feelings** – what it made you feel
- **patterns** – how does the pattern help the effect
- **techniques** – sound effects or word play or imagery
- **most memorable** – which part really worked and why

I like the part where...

I'm not sure...

I'm puzzled about....

This made me think of...

This reminded me of

The part where it says.... made me feel.... because...

The pattern makes the reader....

The best technique used...

The most memorable part is....

Jotcast activity –Try using some of James’s opening phrases:

Which creature would you be?

Today I’d choose...

We all need to

To see ...

To hear ...

To wish for ...

To ...

Tell me:

Which creature would you be?

***Today I’d choose to be a parrot,
as bright a flamenco dancer’s skirts.***

My beak curved like a hook.

My feathers preened and bright

My eyes are polished jet.

My talons are jagged scythes.

We all need to soar, our wings spread

Like a rainbow’s flicker.

To see the forest far below.

To ride the breeze and glide.

To chatter in the trees.

Tell me: which other bird

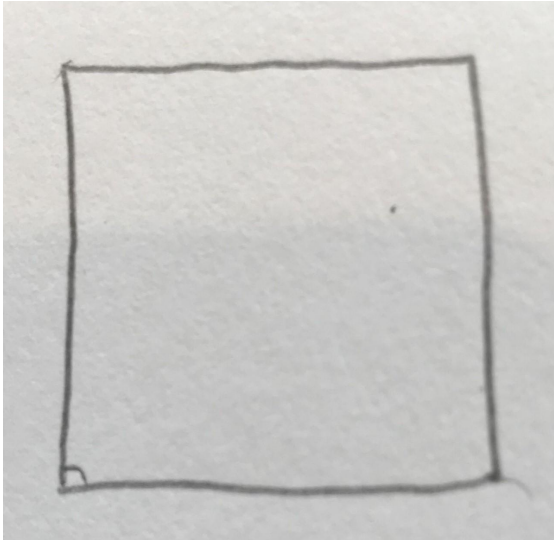
is as bright as sunlight, as noisy

as playground chatter and can

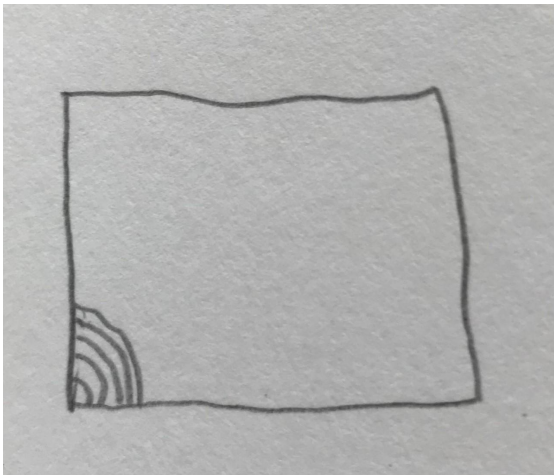
crack nuts like a burglar breaking a safe.

Gallery Challenge - Art activity - patterning

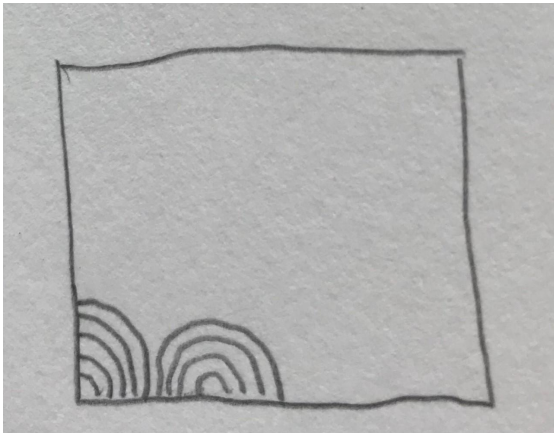
- 1. Draw a small square/ rectangle and in a corner put a small semi circle.**



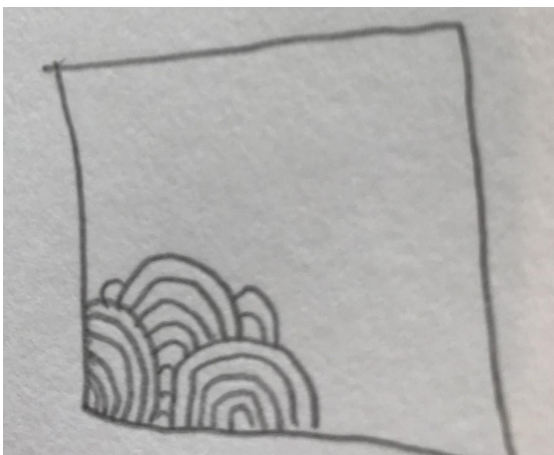
- 2. Now add to the semi-circle some more similar shapes, being careful to keep each line as close as can be BUT separate.**



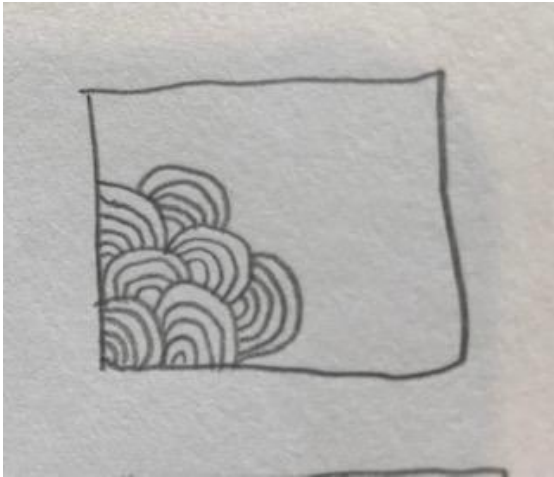
3. Now add a separate pattern alongside your first one.



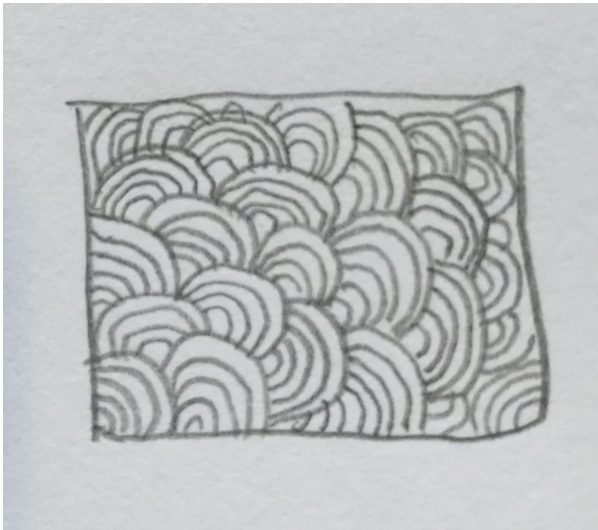
4. Now begin building more patterns.



5. Make sure that you keep each line separate but as close as can be. This takes time and patience.



6. Keep going until the whole space is full.



Blogging Activity – The big challenge – write your own piece of poetic writing about a favourite creature. You can lean on James's poems to help with your structure or develop your own ideas to celebrate a favourite creature.

Audio Challenge – An invitation to record and perform your poem.