



Welcome to **Creative Bursts**, short creative activities to do at home with children of age 8/9+.

Creative Bursts are created by Sarah Webb in partnership with MoLI – Museum of Literature Ireland. Sarah Webb is an award-winning children's writer. Her children's books include *A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea*, illustrated by Steve McCarthy and *Blazing a Trail: Irish Women Who Changed the World*, illustrated by Lauren O'Neill.

MoLI is committed to youth creativity and alongside the free primary schools tour and workshops programme, we also run Bright Sparks – a series of creative workshops facilitated by Irish writers and illustrators where families embrace the opportunity to play and create together.

Episode #13 – Sea Glass & Beach Treasure

I love collecting sea glass on the beach, pink, green and blue, it's like beach treasure. It reminds me of the poem by Bernadette Noll which begins: 'I want to age like sea glass. Smoothed by tides, not broken.'

Creative Bursts Challenge 1

Write a story with the following opening: 'I stared at the piece of sea glass in my hand. There was something trapped inside....'

Creative Bursts Challenge 2

Have you treasure from the beach in your home? A shell, special stone or starfish? Put it in front of you (or find a picture of beach treasure) and write a poem or story inspired by that treasure.

Creative Bursts Challenge 3

Have you ever found a leathery mermaid's purse on the beach? The photo on the right by Sarah Varian from Marine Dimensions features one! You can find out more about beach and sea wildlife on her website: www.marinedimensions.ie

Mermaid's purses are in fact egg sacks that wash up on the beach after the baby sharks or rays have grown big enough to swim out of them (they can stay in them for up to 15 months).

Here's your creative challenge: Write a story or poem about finding a tiny mermaid in a mermaid's purse.

Happy writing!

'A Skimming Stone, Lough Bray' by David Wheatley (extract)

Skim a stone
across the lake surface,
marrying water and air:
turn this brick
of earth, while it flies,
from stone to living fire.

Extract from 'A Skimming Stone, Lough Bray' by David Wheatley from *Thirst* (1997) reproduced by kind permission of the author and the Gallery Press. www.gallerypress.com

