



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 #14 – Doorways & Portals

Have you ever seen a door and wondered what was behind it? It happens to me all the time. This week's theme is doorways and portals. You never know what's behind a door!

Creative Bursts Challenge 1

You're walking in a forest when you find a small door in a tree. You open it – what's inside? Write a story or poem about what you find. You could draw it too.

Creative Bursts Challenge 2

What is happening behind this door? Use this photograph by Richard Seabrooke to inspire your story or poem. You could find other photographs of doors (with an adult's help) and write about what you think is behind them.



Photo: Richard Seabrooke, 2021.

Creative Bursts Challenge 3

A hagstone is a stone with a natural hole in it. You sometimes find them on the beach. In some countries they are called adder stones, fairy stones or witch stones. They are supposed to have magical properties, which can help ward off evil and it's said if you look through one you can see into the future or into the hidden fairy world.

Write a story using the following opening line: I looked through the hagstone I found on the beach and I saw....



'The door'

By Miroslav Holub translated by Ian Milner

Go and open the door.
Maybe outside there's
a tree, or a wood,
a garden,
or a magic city.

Go and open the door.
Maybe a dog's rummaging.
Maybe you'll see a face,
or an eye,
or the picture
of a picture.

Go and open the door.
If there's a fog
it will clear.

Go and open the door.
Even if there's only
the darkness ticking,
even if there's only
the hollow wind,
even if
nothing
is there,
go and open the door.

At least
there'll be
a draught.

Miroslav Holub, *Poems Before & After: Collected English Translations*, trans. Ian and Jarmila Milner et al. (Bloodaxe Books, 2006)

