

KOESTLER ARTS + ART AID

Hello from all of us at Koestler Arts!

We are all living in strange times with the current pandemic. And we know it's very frustrating not being able to access your usual activities.

So Koestler Arts are here each week during lockdown to suggest creative ideas - we hope it helps a bit. All you need is paper and pencil - though if you have further materials please use them.

You might want to keep whatever you make or share it with someone. You could also enter it for the Koestler Awards 2020 - the closing date is extended until we are back in the office. If you've entered already, or can't get advice choosing your favourite work, we've increased the maximum number of entries per person to 10 this year. Entry forms should arrive with this sheet. If not, or you need more, please ask Education. You need an entry form for any artwork you send to Koestler. As well as the usual feedback and awards for entrants, we hope to create a small feature of works that mark how we got through this difficult time.

And if you don't feel like making anything right now, on the back of this sheet is something to read and something to look at from the Koestler back catalogue.

With best wishes from the Koestler Team.

Idea #1: Making Your Mark



Using just a pencil / pen and paper, how many kinds of mark can you make on one page? You could do this very neatly and divide up your page into squares, or just cover the whole page. Let your pen and imagination guide you.

Here are some ideas to get started: strong dark lines, wispy shapes, cross-hatching, shading from dark to light...

Additional ideas:

Think of your pencil or pen as a tool to show how you feel. Can you express different emotions and feelings through your pen by making different marks? Or: Have a go at drawing a simple picture - e.g. of a mug or an apple - using some of your mark-making techniques.

SUGGESTED KOESTLER AWARDS CATEGORY:
29 - Drawing

Idea #2: Go For A Walk

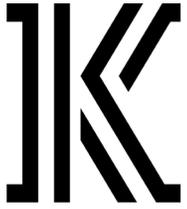


Think of a walk you can remember very clearly. Take some time to sit and think about it. Then write the most vivid and detailed description you can, taking the reader on a walk with you.

It might be down the corridor, down the street or up a mountain. A walk through the countryside, along a beach, or through a town...

Try to include description that involves all your senses - what can you see, hear, smell, feel and even taste in the air?

SUGGESTED KOESTLER AWARDS CATEGORIES:
5 - Non-fiction writing / 6 - Life Story



Sonnet for a Cretan Tree (Zelkova Abelicea)

Outside my window there's a foreign tree,
Each morning it's the first thing that I see.
I often wonder how it came to stand
Upon this very piece of no-man's land.
Those who planned the prison let it grow,
And built this place around it years ago.
The RHS have blessed it with a plaque.

But does it ever dream of going back,
Across the years, the miles, across the sea?
Does it long for friends and family?
Although its leaves dance on this English air,
Does it yearn to blossom over there?

It has no choice. It is a refugee.
My fellow prisoner, the migrant tree.

HM Prison Wymott, 2017

The Gallery HM Prison Wakefield, 2016

