**Penned By A Prisoner – Daily Writing Challenge**

**Budding writer or got something to say?**

#PennedByAPrisoner is a writing project that helps you stay in touch with the community outside. It gives you the opportunity to share your thoughts, stories and poems with the world beyond the prison walls.

To take part in the **Penned By A Prisoner daily** **writing challenge**, set aside time each day to write and follow the themes below. All you need is a pen, paper and imagination!

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| **Day 11** | **Theme: Opposite**  **Definition:** *1. Someone or something that is completely different from someone or something else.*  *2. In a position facing a specified person or thing e.g. "she was sitting almost opposite".*  **Writing tips:** Lots of people hate spiders. Write a page in defence of spiders and why we should love them. Put yourself in the spider’s shoes – how might they feel? Do spiders help us?  If you like creative writing, write a story where the events unfold the opposite way round (start at the end of the story and write backwards from that point).  For example, if you write about a running race, start when your main character crosses the finish line – and then tell the story that led them there. |
| **Day 12** | **Theme: Comic**  **Definition:** *1. Causing or meant to cause laughter.*  *2. Graphic novels, comic books.*  **Writing tips:** Write and draw your own comic strip.It should consist of four pictures that tell a story about the journey of a coin – where does the coin start? Whose purse or pocket does the coin end up in? What happens to the coin in the end – is it spent? Put in a jar? Dropped on the street? The comic strip is a snapshot of a day in the life of a coin.  If you like creative writing, write a story or poem about a clown that wants to quit the circus. What do they want to do instead? Are they afraid they won’t succeed? If so, how do they overcome that fear? |
| **Day 13** | **Theme: Doors**  **Definition:***1.**A swinging or sliding barrier by which an entry is closed or opened.*  *2. A means of access or participation, opportunity.*  **Writing tips:** What doors do you feel are opento you? Are there any doors you feel you can’t get through? Why? Not every door is physical – some doors might be how difficult or easy it is to access opportunities.  If you could open the door to any building in the world, which one would you pick? Explain why.  If you like creative writing, tell a story or write a poem about someone running for the bus and the doors close before they get there. What is the ripple effect of them missing the bus – are they late for an important appointment? Were they on their way to get married? Write about how their day unfolds as a result. |
| **Day 14** | **Theme: Question**  **Definition:** *1. A question or phrase used to find out information.*  *2. To consider something.*  **Writing tips:** Think about unspoken rules that we all follow in everyday life. For example, it is commonly accepted that we don’t eat food off other people’s plate without asking. This is for a good reason – the food belongs to that person, so it makes sense that we don’t do this.  Now think about some of the standards we assign to groups of people. For example, think of phrases like “men don’t cry”. We know that men can, and do, cry. What kind of stereotypes do phrases or statements like this create? What is the impact of these kind of stereotypes?  If you like creative writing, think about fairy tales. In many of these stories, the prince saves the princess. What if the princess saves herself? Write the new version. |
| **Day 15** | **Theme: Bars**  **Definition:** *1. A long, rigid piece of wood or metal, typically used as an obstruction.*  *2. Any of the short sections or measures, typically of equal time value, into which a piece of music is divided.*  **Writing tips:** Think about the lessons you have learnt behind bars. What is the most significant for you? Has someone shared a quote or piece of wisdom that has inspired you on the inside? What is your advice to others for getting through time?  If you like creative writing, try and write a rap that is at least 16 bars long. What does the beat sound like?  If you can, try and express the beat in claps, alongside your lyrics – for example: *clap – clap clap clap – pause – clap.* |
| **Day 16** | **Theme: Fly**  **Definition:** *1. To move quickly through the air with wings.*  *2. A flying insect e.g. a blue bottle fly.*  **Writing tips:** Think of the phrase “when pigs fly” – this is used to express circumstances that are an impossibility, or the speaker believes would never occur. Write about someone in history who, against the odds, has overcome great challenges and inspires you. They can come from any country.  If you like creative writing, write a story or poem about a fly that gets stuck on the wall of an airplane. Where does the fly end up? How did the fly find themselves on the airplane in the first place? Does the fly manage to get back home? |
| **Day 17** | **Theme: Paper**  **Definition:** *A sheet of paper with something written or printed on it.*  **Writing tips:** Make sure to use your free weekly letter and write to a friend or family member on the outside today! Keeping in touch with loved ones is important.  If there is no one you would like to write to on the outside, travel through time and write a letter to your younger self. What advice would you give?  If you like creative writing, write a poem about a paper airplane that is blown away. Try and make every two lines rhyme. |
| **Day 18** | **Theme: Point**  **Definition:** *1.**An exact position (location).*  *2. To direct someone’s attention towards something e.g. “she pointed at the snail”.*  *3. A dot or other punctuation mark, in particular a full stop at the end of a sentence.*  **Writing tips:** Leaving prison is the end of a custodial sentence. What are your goals for life on the outside? Where do you want to be in five years? Write your plan for the future and detail the steps you need to take to get to that point.  If you like creative writing, write a story about a treasure hunt. There is a map with the treasure’s location, but it is hidden in a cave at Lizard’s Point and guarded by reptiles. Who hide the map there and why? Are the reptiles good or bad? (Don’t assume they are evil). Do the characters in the story manage to find the treasure? What happens when the treasure is found?  *Note:* The treasure cannot be money or gold. |
| **Day 19** | **Theme: Love**  **Definition:** *1. Deep affection*  *2. A great interest in something*  **Writing tips:** Think about your favourite hobby. Explain what it is and why you love it. If you don’t have a hobby, write about a hobby you would love to try.  If you like creative writing, take the letters that make up the word ‘love’, put them in the opposite order (E becomes the first letter, V the second letter etc) and add the letters ‘ve’ at the end of your new word. Write a story inspired by the new word.  *Hint:* The definition of the new word is “to develop gradually”.  Need story inspiration? Think of the life of a caterpillar. |
| **Day 20** | **Theme: Write/ Right**  **Definition:** *1.* ***Write*** *– to form words on the surface of paper with a pen or pencil.*  *2. a)* ***Right*** *– in accordance with what is good, proper or just e.g. “it was the right thing to do”.*  *b) That which is due to anyone by just claim e.g. human rights.*  *c) The opposite of left (direction).*  **Writing tips:** You have reached day 20 of the Penned by a Prisoner writing challenge! Well done.  Today, there are two options. You have been writing quite a lot and might have some of your own ideas for themes – if so, follow the “write” theme and write on any topic you like!  If you prefer to follow a theme, write under the “right” theme. Here are some questions to help inspire you:  Think about a time you were faced with a decision. What choice did you make? Reflect on the steps that led to that decision. Is there anything you would change? What factors influenced you? Do you feel you made the right choice? If not, and you were faced with a similar decision in the future, how would you respond differently?  If you like creative writing, write a story about a car journey where the driver goes right instead of left. When they realise they’ve taken a wrong turn, the car breaks down. What happens next? Where does the new road bring them? |

**There will be more Penned By A Prisoner daily writing challenges created so if you like them, please ask the member of staff who gave you this for the next ones! Happy writing ☺**