

MATCH THE POEM TO THE ARTEFACT



By Olivia Brady

During your walk around our Pottery, Ceramic and Silverware gallery, read these poems and guess which artefact they belong to!

Each poem is partnered with a clue – pay attention to the small details!



Use the QR code to view the poems on your phone, or wander around the gallery with the booklet provided.

TRANSCENDING THE TRANSATLANTIC



Clue: The last line of each verse is on the artefact!

A bittersweet moment of dismay and joy,
At the port she sheds a tear,
The powers of fate she must employ,
'To find her long lost lover near'.

She ponders the endless blue reach,
The ship and her lover seeming mere,
Her adoration unimpeached,
'To find her long lost lover near'.

With the sun now touching the sea,
She kneels hoping he will appear,
Time flees by but stationed she will be,
'To find her long lost lover near'

A WORLD OF MAIOLICA



Clue: I'm very colourful

I grasp onto the mouth of lion and I
Hike up my foot onto its head,
I wrap my arms around the scales of the snake,
And I zoom around its loops and fall into its den.

I lay flat on my back startled
As my head spins a summer sunset twirls,
Paint brushes of blue swirls and swirls and slows,
The world solidifies into a terracotta landscape.

My stay is brief but still I wander,
Touching turquoise water and letting it fall through my
fingers,
Digging my nails into scorching sand while I stare at an
island,
So far yet so near.

Birdsongs enrapture my ears and lull me as I explore,
I pass the fountains and the cold-water sizzles
As it touches my hot skin,
And it disappears into the air.

There's so many houses but not a soul to be found,
Maybe I could take one for my own,
And live in my world of Maiolica.

ONE LEG SHORT



Clue: My legs have hoofs!

Oh god! Oh no! Oh god! Oh no!

I seem to have lost a leg!

The fourth one I had was not for show,

If you see it bring it back, I beg!

Everyone else in the oven had four,

Perhaps they forgot or ran out of limbs,

Or maybe I slipped and fell on the floor,

And it lives under the desk with springs and things.

But how could they forget what keeps me up!

If they cannot find it, I will take this to court!

The teapots say "Don't be a grumpy schmuck!",

But I'm three legs up and one leg short!

THE FORGOTTEN FIVE



Clue: The rest of me is missing!

A fragment of a story in white and blue,
What type of story does this seem like to you?

Is it a tale of a family and domestic bliss?
Or a preparation for war with love's last kiss.

Perhaps it is a tale of folklore and fantasy,
Where warriors will fight, over-flowing with
gallantry.

Maybe it's up to us to piece together the story,
For the rest of the tale we have been
deprived,
The best we can do is paint them with glory,
When we remember and celebrate the
forgotten five

AS I REMINISCE



Clue: I helped abolish slavery!

I'm stood in a room adorned with
Oak and the finest furniture,
Lavish paintings stretch across the walls
And the smell of varnish moves up my nostrils,
A place well looked after.

But I can't help but think of the greed embroidered in
The cushions I sit on,
A room of men who take, take, take,
From a people brought here with their nails dug in the
ground,
And how those nails are scratched into all the wealth that
Engulfs this pompous room.

As I reminisce on my botanical memories of
Working with my father in every corner of
Natural beauty in comparison to the horrid scene,
I feel a fire light at the pit of my stomach,
A fury fuelled by injustice.

ANOMOLY AT THE WELL



Clue: I'm surrounded by flowers!

Adorned in a gown poorly suited to her task,
A laborious job for a lady so proper,
A fervour for independence she does not lack,
Nor the elements or fashion can conceive to
stop her!

Her pail overflows, water circles her feet,
Distracted by nature her eyes wander,
The wind is quiet and heavy with heat,
Her skirt all sodden as she stands and
ponders.

The beauty of my garden has distracted me
from my task!

A distraction worth being distracted by.

WRITING CHALLENGE



Challenge yourself to compose your own poem inspired by an artefact.

Ask yourself:

- What is the artefact made from?
- Where has the artefact come from?
- What colours are being used?
- What is being displayed on the artefact?
- Has it got any unique features that set it apart?

Coleridge and Wordsworth were known for using visual stimuli like nature to inspire their writing. It can often be a useful tool to break through writer's block, or a place to begin if you've never engaged in creative writing before!

ANSWERS



Transcending the Transatlantic
Returning Hopes plate c. 1810

A World of Maiolica
Cantagalli Vase c. 1880

One Leg Short
Blue Sprigged Teapot c. 1750

The Forgotten Five
Chinese Dish c. 1750s

As I Reminisce...
Bust of William Roscoe c. 1828

Anomaly at the Well
French Scenery Soup Plate c. 1835