

DAiSY: Get Writing Micro-podcast: Week 7 - Insect and other life, finding metaphors in science

Hello, it's Jackie Wills here with a new writing exercise on the DAiSY series. This is in two parts - to begin with, make notes. Take a piece of A4 paper and on the left, make a list of insects or other cold-blooded creatures from land or the sea. Try and get to at least 10 - the harder you think, the more interesting your list will be. Now, next to each creature, write a line or two about what it reminds you of.

A spider can make us think of a trap because of its web, but it also symbolises skill. If the meanings you write next to your creature are contradictory, choose one or the other. But you could choose both and play with the difference.

But now you have to choose one of the creatures from this list. Use its name as your title and start to write. Keep your creature in its habitat. Describe where it lives and expand on one aspect of its behaviour in detail. Then compare it to something completely different, from the world of cars or machines, or human life.

When you've finished, just add three extra lines: what three emotions or feelings does this living thing inspire in you?