

Lockdown

In March 2020, the world changed. Coronavirus arrived and we were all told to stay safe and stay at home. They called it **lockdown**.

Suddenly, many of us were doing our schoolwork at home and many of the things we used to enjoy doing like playing with our friends, visiting our family, going shopping or eating at a favourite café all stopped.

A writer thought about all of the things we used to do before the lockdown and it got him thinking about doing some writing to describe some of the changes and how he felt about them.

Every day, he walks past a playground called Cawston Park. There are usually many children playing. Now there is a sign on all the equipment and the gate has been locked. The park has been closed. He thought about the park before the lockdown, about how different it was now without the children enjoying themselves.

He also thought about the changes in the houses where many children were now doing their schoolwork with their family.

The world will get back to normal and we will all go to play in the park again.

This list poem tries to share some of his thoughts and feelings about the lockdown and the changes. It is called Lockdown Park. Read below or listen here:

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/lockdown/s-BWLqMEakDjp>

Lockdown Park

Cawston Park watches and waits.
Suddenly, squealing children enter, laughing.
The rope swing giggles.
The slide smiles.
The trampoline **tenses**.
A child **clutches** the thick, **frayed** rope and swings and sways over the soft sand, shrieking.

Another child skids down the slide, grinding to a sudden halt.
The gentle thump, thump, thump of a distant trampoline provides a steady heartbeat.
Steel spring squeak in **rhythm**, providing a welcome tune.
Cawston park sighs and smiles.

Lockdown park watches and waits.
Suddenly, a sign arrives with **shackles**.
No squeals. No laughter. No children.
The rope swing stares.
The slide glares.
The trampoline **slackens**.
No one clutches the thick, frayed rope.
No one swings and sways over the soft, yellow sand.
No steady heartbeat. No squeaky tune.
Empty, Lockdown Park **scowls** and **frowns**.

The house watches and waits.

Suddenly a child enters squealing and laughing.

The TV stares.

The mat smiles.

The table **awaits**.

A child stretches and strains, watching TV PE.

Weekly street clapping provides a new heartbeat.

Steel saucepans and wooden spoons provide a new clanging tune.

A child clutches an **array** of thick, coloured crayons and creates.








Red. Orange. Yellow. Green...

Something to display in the window of hope.

Lockdown park watches and waits.

Task

The words in bold in the poem are listed below. See if you can match them to a similar word. One has been done for you. If you are not sure, use a dictionary to look up the actual meaning.

Target Word	Similar matching words 'synonyms'	Picture clue
tenses	worn tatty ragged	
clutches	'dirty look' grimace glare glower	
frayed	becomes edgy/jumpy	
shackles	relaxes loosen	
rhythm	beat pattern	
slackens	grabs grip grasp	
scowls frowns	selection group of collection	
awaits	waits for expects	
array	chains locked	

What words and ideas do you remember?

Try to picture the park and the house in your head.
You could ask someone to read the poem to you as you
close your eyes or listen using the link above.

Without reading the poem again, quickly say out loud
any words or ideas that you can remember. Now write
them down. Add pictures if you like.

**When I listen to the poem, these are the words and
ideas that I remember...**

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**When I listen to the poem, these are the ideas
that came into my head about what lockdown has
meant to me...**

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What did the poem make you think about?

Use 'because' to extend your ideas in each sentence.

What did you like about the poem?

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What surprised you?

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What did the poem make you think about?

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What do you think this poem is *really* about?

Underline the answer that you think is the best fit.

Playing in the park

Happy TVs and mats

A lonely, miserable park

How our world has changed