

## **The Poetry Box - The Royal Society/ Southbank Centre:**

'See Further' Poetry & Science Project

Festival of Science and Arts – residency / commission

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### **Writing and Science: THE POETRY BOX**

*from **Random Numbers** to science-inspired **Metaphors** and **Mini-Worlds***

Allen Ginsberg tells us: “The only thing that can save the world is the reclaiming of the awareness of the world”. Of course, nurturing a deep awareness of what’s around us – and *in* us – isn’t just the job of keen-eyed scientists.

As a scientist and poet, I’ve become aware of the many links between science and literature. And yet, it’s still fairly rare to find creative writing exercises that span those two subjects in genuine ways. This booklet aspires to authentic, rather than superficial, connections between science and poetry. Not just *poetry + science*, then, but *poetry x science*.

Trialled with teachers and educators at the Southbank Library over the summer of 2010, these activities generated some extraordinary results. Themes included Objects/ Observation, New Wor(l)ds, and Chance/ Randomness. The exercises are easily transferred to the classroom or to adult workshops – any situation, in fact, where science is to be utilised as a spur for new writing. The instructions are reasonably self-contained (though, naturally, where younger people are involved, supervision will be helpful).

Reading that quote from Ginsberg, I realise that we can stand in full daylight but – without awareness – still be in the dark. My hope is that the *Poetry Box* will act as a ‘creativity catalyst’ for you, sparking fresh ways of re-cognising and re-creating some corner of your own observable world.

*Mario Petrucci, October 2010*

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For access to the **Poetry Box**, contact the educational arm of the **Southbank Library**.