

So Much Depends

*so much depends
upon*

*a red wheel
barrow*

*glazed with rain
water*

*beside the white
chickens.*

William Carlos Williams

*so much depends
upon*

*a reviving
cuppa*

*thick white china
on bleached tables*

in August sun.

*(Observations at Kings Manor café, High Tide
Poets and Drawing Ahead)*

This activity shows how in writing as in art, a fragment can imply the whole. It helps the writer/artist to pay attention to the landscape.

Williams gives us just enough vivid detail for us to make our own mental pictures of the scene he describes. No one's picture will be quite the same as anyone else's but it will '*carry a similar imaginative charge*' *

Individual poems can follow on from a poem written collaboratively. It's useful to have the original poem on a flipchart or hand-out, as a model.

Guidelines:

- Zoom in on a detail you notice – it can be an object, part of an object, a living creature, a plant etc...
- Start with the lines so '*much depends/upon*'
- Use the same pattern and short lines as William Carlos Williams.
- Give the readers just enough detail to set their imaginations working.

**With thanks to Peter Sansom who describes this approach in Writing Poetry (published by Bloodaxe)*