



Druid Community and Education

Once Upon a Bridge (2022)

Writing Prompt 1

Once Upon a Bridge was inspired by a real incident. In 2017, a jogger pushed a woman into the path of an oncoming bus on Putney Bridge in London. After the push, the jogger kept running and didn't look back. The quick-thinking bus driver managed to swerve and narrowly avoid the woman. CCTV footage of the incident was released at the time, but the jogger was never found.

There were three people directly involved in the incident: the jogger, the woman, and the bus driver. We only know the identity of the bus driver.

In *Once Upon a Bridge*, playwright Sonya Kelly imagines who these people might have been, what might have led up to this incident, and what might have become of them after. To inform the play, she studied the CCTV footage, news articles, and interviews with the bus driver.

Now it's *your* turn.

Using the same research materials, tell us what you think happened. Who were these people? What took place on the bridge, and why?

Choose a character who was affected by this incident – the jogger, the woman, the bus driver, or indeed someone else (for example: a witness, a friend, or family member) – and write a monologue from the point of view of this character. Take artistic licence, change the names, fictionalise the events. If you prefer, you can write from the point of view of more than one character.

Your monologue should be a maximum of **3 pages or 750 words**.

A monologue is a long speech by one character. A direct address monologue is where the character speaks directly to the audience. This type of monologue allows them to reveal their innermost thoughts and feelings.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

Timeline

When do we meet the character? Before the incident, during the incident, immediately after the incident, or sometime after the incident?

Character

Whose point of view are you writing from? If you prefer, you can write from the point of view of more than one character.

Research

Look at the CCTV footage, interviews, and articles to gain clues about these people.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

Who is this person? Why were they on the bridge? Do the characters know one another? What happened just before the incident? What happened after the incident? Where are they now? What might have led to this incident? What might they have been thinking about?

