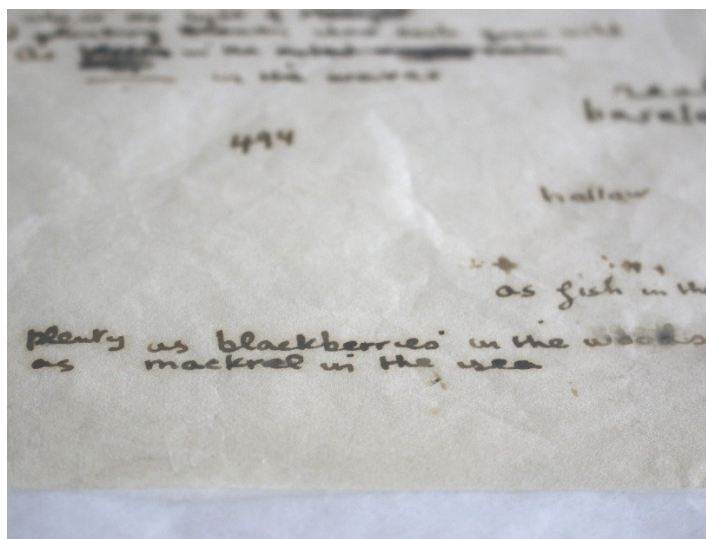
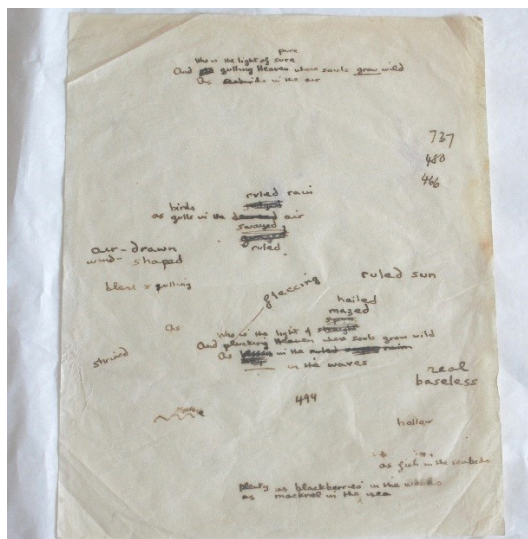


# Dylan's Animals: Make a scrap paper finger puppet

For this project we've been inspired by all the animals Dylan Thomas included in his poems. Dylan often wrote on scraps of paper and card, but we are going to use ours to make finger puppets!



Here is a sheet of paper where Dylan was planning a poem he was writing called 'Poem on his birthday'. This poem mentions lots of animals and birds including herons, otters, eagles, whales, curlews, cormorants, minnows, wild geese, horses and dolphins!



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On this page Dylan was trying out different combinations of words to see how they worked together. At the bottom Dylan has written 'plenty as blackberries in the woods \ as mackerel in the sea'. The mackerel didn't get included in the final poem.

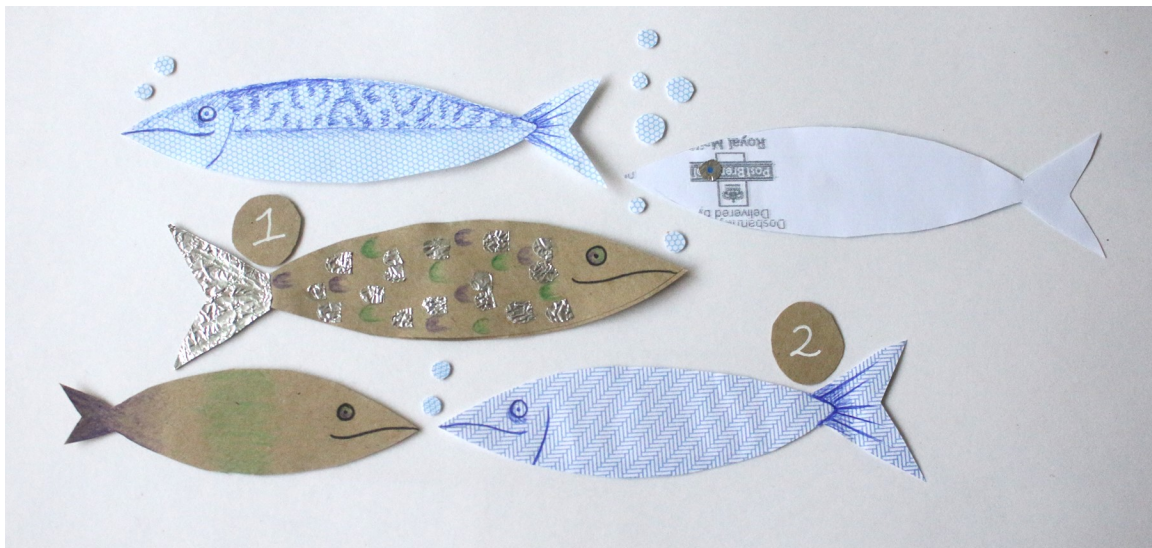
For our finger puppets, we are going to make a dolphin, an otter, and Dylan's missing mackerel!

What you need to make your puppets:

- Scrap paper - this can be from envelopes or any other plain scrap paper you might have
- Something to draw with
- Glue
- Scissors

Optional extras:

- Some foil – from a biscuit wrapper or any tin foil (thinner foil is easier to cut)
- A jar lid – to draw around
- A selection of colouring pens or pencils
- Bits of old magazines, flyers, or wrapping paper



How to make:

**Dylan's missing mackerel:** 'plenty as blackberries in the woods \ as mackerel in the sea'

To make Dylan's missing mackerel, draw a long fish shape on to an envelope. If you are using other kinds of scrap paper, fold your paper in half as you want to have two fish the same size to make your puppet. Make sure your shape is big enough for your finger. Our mackerel is 13 cm long by 3 cm high.

Cut around your fish shape. You should now have two fish ready to decorate!

Decorate your fish, you can decorate one side or both! Mackerel are beautiful fish that have silvery scales. On mackerel 1. we have used foil, black pen and colouring pencils on brown envelope paper. On mackerel 2. we have drawn biro on a white envelope – the printed pattern is from the inside of the envelope.

Glue your two mackerel together, remembering to leave a good size gap for your finger, as shown in the photo above. Our gap is 2.5 cm and fits a medium sized finger. Once the glue is dry, your puppet is complete!



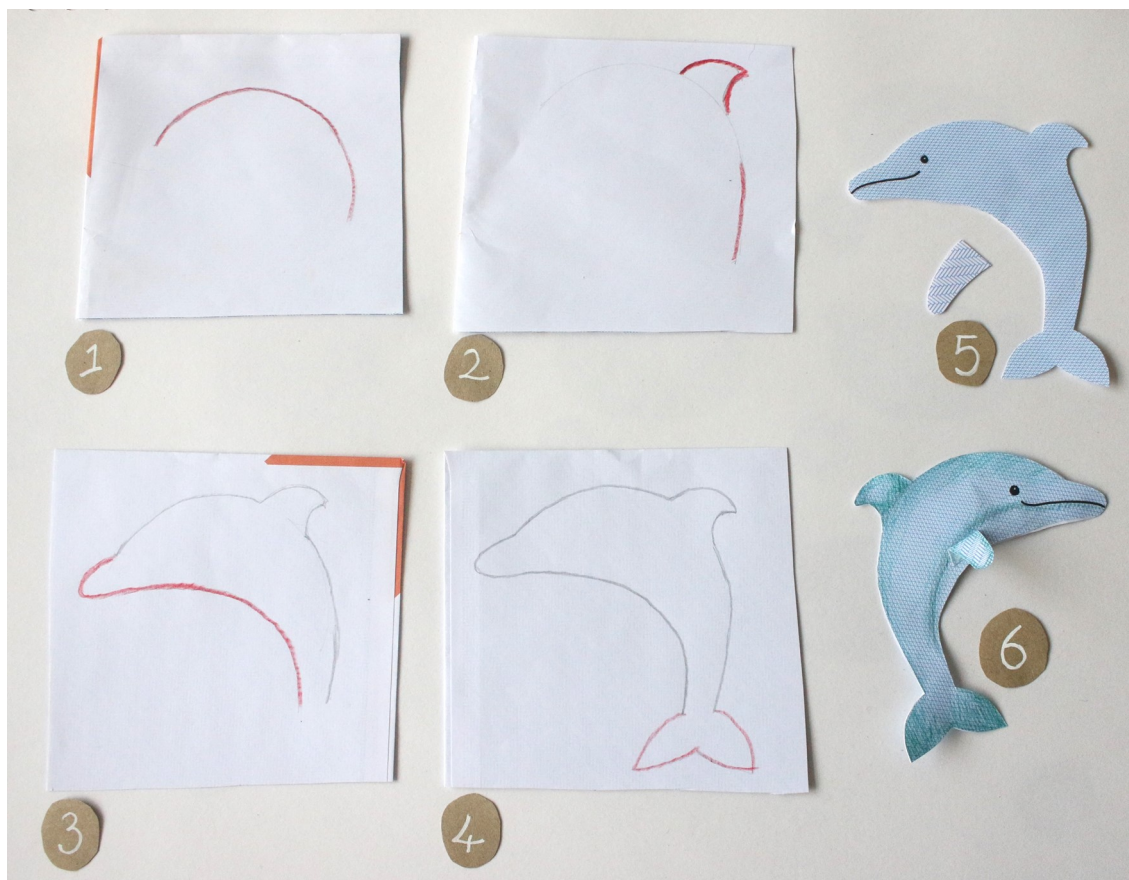
## Dolphin: 'Under a serpent cloud, \ Dolphins dive in their turnturtle dust,'

Dolphins can be quite tricky to draw but we have a few tips that might help!

- If you have a jar lid, you can use it to help draw a curve.
- You will probably find it easiest to draw lightly in pencil first and then redraw over once you are happy with the basic outline.
- Don't worry if you make a mistake you can always draw over it!

To make a dolphin puppet, draw a curved line on to an envelope, we used a jar lid to get a nice shape. As with the mackerel, if you are not using an envelope remember to fold your paper in half, as you want to have two dolphins.

You can use our step-by-step guide below to help you draw the rest of the dolphin. Make sure your shape is big enough for your finger. Ours is 10.5 cm long and 3 cm high at the head.



Once you are happy with your outline, you can go over it in pen or darker pencil and then cut it out.

To decorate we have used the inside blue pattern of the inside of the envelope, and drawn on top with pencil crayons and a fine pen.

Glue your two pieces together, remembering to leave a good size gap for your finger. Our gap is 3 cm and fits a medium sized finger. Once the glue has dried your finger puppet is finished!

**Otter:** 'On a seizing sky; small fishes glide \ Through wynds and shells of drowned \ Ship towns to pastures of otters.'

Our otter is made with two rectangles for the body; with the head, paws, and tail, added on afterwards.

Draw out a rectangle on to an envelope or on a scrap of paper folded in half. Ours is 8cm high x 5.5cm wide. Now follow our step-by-step photos to make your otters face, paws and tail.



Once you have drawn out all your pieces, you can colour them in, or use collage from magazines to make the otter's fur.

Cut out all your pieces and glue together using the photo as a guide. When gluing together the two body pieces, remember to glue along the two long edges and the top but don't add glue along the bottom edge as that is where your finger will go! We also added thin strips of paper for the whiskers at this point, but you can draw them on if you prefer. Let the glue dry –now your otter is ready for their first performance!



## What to do with your finished puppets:

- Give them names.
- Write a story or a poem about them.
- Get your finger puppets to tell terrible jokes to your family.
- Use as a pen or pencil topper, to make schoolwork extra exciting!
- Design and make more finger puppets with different animals. What about a horse, a cat, or a seagull?



If you make some puppets we would love to see them! You can share them on Facebook: @DylanThomasCentre on Twitter: @DTCSwansea or email us at [nicola.kelly@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.kelly@swansea.gov.uk)

We hope you have fun with your puppets! For more activities inspired by Dylan Thomas and our collections, please visit [www.dylanthomas.com](http://www.dylanthomas.com)