

These tasks will help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize, on the 2021-22 theme 'Coming Up for Air: Writing the Climate Crisis'



Lesson 3: *If I Ruled the World*: Practise Writing and Choose a Topic

In Orwell's ideal world, perhaps every day would be the first day of spring, with toads emerging everywhere, celebrating life itself.

If I ruled the world
Every day would be the first day of spring
Every heart would have a new song to sing
And we'd sing of the joy every morning would bring
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAv4JAFauc>
[Bricusse & Ornadel, 1963] Tony Bennett's silken voice

If I ruled the world, imagine that
I'd free all my sons – I love 'em love 'em baby...
The way to be, paradise like relaxin',
Black, Latino and Anglo-Saxon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlp-IIG9ApU>
(Nas et al, 1996) Lauryn Hill's also silken voice

1. **Think** (5 minutes)

But the question is: what is the Number 1 thing *you* would do, if you could decide what to do first about the climate crisis?

It does not need to be The Biggest Thing! The climate crisis affects everyone and everything – literally – so you can choose anything you want.

The point of this activity is that your choice will help you realise what is most significant to you. And that will, in turn, give you the best idea about which subject you want to write about for the Prize – and therefore what you need to research next.

2. **Write** (50 minutes)

Plan and write one of these four choices:

Election speech : 'Make me your leader for a happy world!'	News report : on your reign. Favourable, of course.
Fan letter to a friend: 'OMG! It's so much better with our perfect new leader!'	Leaflet : Information from the Ministry of Joy, outlining the things you've improved.*

*This one *could* be a bit sarcastic. Orwell's Ministry of Love in 1984 is where people were taken to be tortured.