

ART ON THE UNDERGROUND

A LOCK IS A GATE

Ruth Ewan with Kerry Andrew, Evlynn Sharp and young people from Laburnum Boat Club

Transcript of lyrics (spoken and sung by participants aged 9-19 years old)

1. Setting off (48 seconds)

I set off on my journey and the six things I need are: DS, suitcase, sunscreen to rub on my face. The people I see have handbags. I hear people saying "blah, blah, blah". When I get on the train, I hear choo choo choo. I have three more things to bring: phone, bag and my hat. I'm coming off the Tube. Suddenly I'm on a boat.

2. Journey through the Canal Tunnel (2 minutes 49 seconds)

At the beginning I see lots of trees and bridges that we go under.

Sound of children calling.

If you say all the letters you see, it'll spell out a word

Oh, does it?

The letters stick out so you can see them

Oh, okay. So we'll see them later on

They're all the way along

Q. A line. An underground sign

I can hear the boat steering

A red line

A blue line

I can feel the breeze on my body

Another red line

You, you, you

Q, U, Q, U

Another red line

And bridges that we go under

Red eyes, and on the other side

Red eyes, little red eyes, glooming all over us

We have to go

I'm still moving on my journey

Orange chalk, white goo, black walls

Eeeee!

A sign. A sign

Eyes, gloomy red eyes

Old, old spider webs

An S

Oh! Quest. Q, U...

A leaf, a shadow

Light. A light. You can see light. The light's getting bigger and bigger

A T

Oh! Quest. It all spells quest

(Hummed tune for the traditional song 'Drunken Sailor')

3. Seeing the Moon (2 minutes 56 seconds)

In the middle of my journey I can see locks to drive the boat in. I can hear people talking lots of nonsense.

Layered voices repeating:

Eyes are the moon, face would be big cheesy smile, sound is sweesh-sweesh-wreesh, food of the moon is bananas, moon's word is beautiful, colour is blue, taste is old socks, smells like the same, weather would be O, very, very cold is the moon, outside is orange, and -- inside the moon -- a mixed-race door.

Yellow is a light, yellow is a drawing over... Green is grass, green is the Laburnum mini-bus, blue sky, the orange sun through my eyes, green is for the trees, blue is for the sea, blue is an exit, brown is an eye, blue sky, orange sun in my eyes, red is a frame, red is a balloon, yellow is a drawing over... there the yellow boat

Chorus

I can hear the nothing
All I can see is the moon
All I see is the moon

4. A Lock is a Gate (4 minutes 20 seconds)

I carry on my journey.

I go though the lock, the water pulls the boat down. I can see water splashing all over the rock. I can hear the water hitting the rocks.

Personally I don't like the stereotype put on teenagers. People assume that because we are young that we are going to be rebellious and not all teenagers are like that. The older generation think that because we're young we're going to be more rebellious and I don't think that's for all of us.

Butterfly. Butterfly. Butterfly.

There's always going to be obstacles and stuff. But that's just life. And you will get over it. So much stress from the exams and stuff. But it'll all, like ... at the end of it, something good will come out of it. So you've just got to go over obstacles and then live a great life.

You need to learn to deal with pressure as well, because pressure's always going to be there.

And it's one of the main obstacles of life: facing the pressure of what you do.

How to work the lock: First you tie your rope to the bollard. Then you open the gate.

There's always going to be obstacles and stuff. But that's just life. And you will get over it.

When you pull into a lock, someone on the boat or someone at the side must use a windlass to loosen a hole in the gate to let the water out so it is the same level as the water that the boat's in.

Pressure's always going to be there.

I look like a butterfly.

Then you turn the windlass so that the panel goes up. Then you drive your boat into...

No. You open the gate.

You open the gate. Then you drive your boat into the lock.

I look like pink.

Close the gates afterwards. Make sure you do that.

And then you shut the gate.

Then you shut the gate by turning it the opposite way. And then close the gate.

It's one of the main obstacles of life.

I look like a butterfly.

Climb over the gates to the other side.

Unwind that gate with the windlass.

Let the water come in.

Let the water go up to the word that says seal. And then, when it goes up to 'seal', open the gate and then drive through the gate.

No. You have to unlock the gate.

Yeah. And unlock the gate.

When it is ready you open it. Let the boat through. And make sure you shut it afterwards. Climb back onto the boat. And that is how you get through a lock.

That's how you work the lock.

Butterfly.

There's always going to be like obstacles and stuff. But that's just life. And you will get over it.

Butterfly.

It's one of the main obstacles of life.

Butterfly. I always fly. Butterfly. A butterfly. Butterfly. Butterfly. (Repeat).

You've got to love live life.

Yeah. Love live life. That's our motto.

Butterfly. Butterfly. (Repeat).

5. Magic Machine (1 minute 17 seconds)

Good magic words. Say it again. Good magic words.
Live forever machine.
Equal money machine.
Water machine.
Food machine.
Ooohh.
Machine. Machine. Machine.
Everlasting friends, time and space.
No bad things in the city.
Make good jobs.
Build houses – people need more room.
Sweets that taste the same as normal but are good for you.
A canon that shoots out stars.
A never-ending chocolate bar.
Stop war invention.
Live forever. Live forever.
Equal Money machine. Equal Money machine.
Water machine.
Food machine.
Everlasting friends and time and space.
A fake but liveable earth.
Qoohh.
More happy. Don't start wars.
Count to 3 and see what happens.
Count to 9.
Good magic words.
Water machine.
Food machine.

6. Moving (16 seconds)

I'm still on my journey. I can see buildings that have lots of spray paint on. I can feel the vibration on my body while we are moving. I can see big trees with big birds on them.

7. Like birds (44 seconds)

I am calm like songs that birds sing. I am gentle like the songs that birds sing. I am like birds who go to different places. I am carried by the winds like birds. I am calm. I am gentle. I am like songs that birds sing.

8. Like fireworks (47 seconds)

I like fireworks. I am very energetic. I never go to bed. I am dressed in sparkles. I change colours. Green means happy. Yellow means happy. Red means angry. Blue means sad. And that's all I know.

9. Turning (35 seconds)

We're getting ready to turn round.
Hummed tune for the traditional song 'Drunken Sailor'.
That was my journey.

For further information

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