

**Sit with us for a moment and remember:
Introduction – audio transcript**

The plaque says sit with us for a moment and remember.

I am waiting/sitting on this bench for you now and I can see children playing. I can see boats on the lake, seagulls landing and ducks paddling. I can see the ice cream van. I can see bicycles. I can see families. I can see insects. I can see people walking past on their mobile phone. I can see the gallery, the theatre, the pavilion, the boat house. I can see life buoys to be thrown into the water in case of an emergency. I can see a statue of the man who built this. I can see winged eagles/angels on gate posts. I can see a path. I can see a croquet lawn. I can see a bowling green. I can see an island. I can see railings. I can see a balcony with graffiti on it.

I can see benches with plaques on them. I can see trees that are symmetrical but grown out of shape. I can see leaves falling. I can see pushchairs and people in masks, people social distancing and people taking selfies with the water behind them. I can see traffic. I can see trams. I can see aeroplanes. I can see a pylon. I can see the castle. I can see tower blocks. I can see tennis courts. I can see hockey pitches and scoreboards and floodlights. I can see buses and lorries and electric scooters. I can see litter. I can see cigarette butts. I can see sticks and stones. I can see boats. I can see boys on bikes ringing their bells. I can see clouds reflected in the water.

I can hear trains and trams passing and aeroplanes flying overhead and geese honking, and I can hear brakes and gears changing and tyres rolling. I can hear dogs barking. I can hear you talking. I can hear passing cars. I can hear geese calling, ducks quacking, dogs barking, myself talking, trees swaying, leaves rustling, branches creaking, water lapping, waves breaking. I can hear oars clashing and children laughing. I can hear the bells ringing and the birds singing.

I can see you.

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