**Lists**

‘Things I Have Been Doing Lately’ by Alan Ahlberg is a great way to think about the quirkiness of the ordinary.  It is also a list poem. His list includes ‘Growing taller’, ‘Picking a scab on my elbow’ and ‘Keeping a worm in a jar’.  I have written a few list poems, one of which was called ‘Younger Brother’ and began

He collects bottle tops
Toilet roll holders
Dead insects
Bits of rock and stones...

it was actually about my son and was mainly true. Make a list of little things you like: often it’s more interesting than Big Important things. Or what can you see from your window?

There’s always something, even in the most unexpected places. All you have to do is get down to the small print, as it were.

The sill was white and now is grey
And splashed by birds
Long gone away
The drainpipe tree
Branches to next door’s
Bath and lavatory
Its sap does not rise
(We’re glad to say)
And in all its years
It never has been climbed (up)
By a cat burglar
Or (down) by an eloping daughter…

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