



Room with a View
Learn to Love Solitude (ADFM5018)

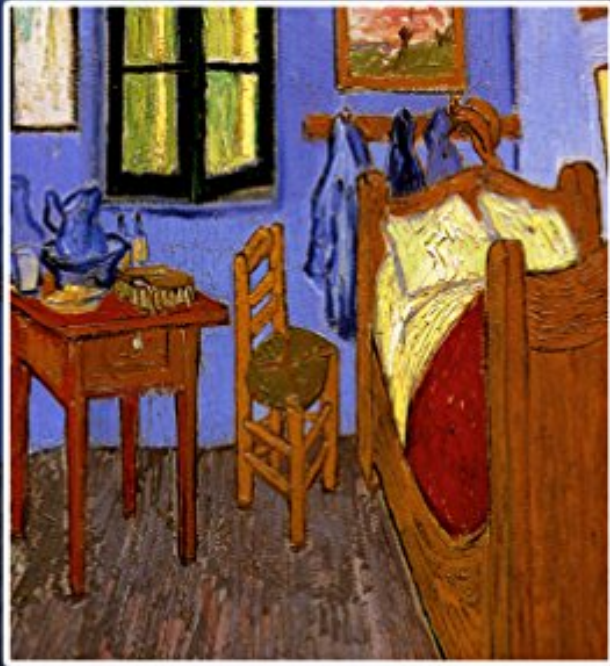
Room with a View

Lesson Aims

- **Room with a View – Interior Spaces – Windows and Mise en Scene ‘objects/props’**
- **‘Semiotics of Solitude’ – visual language of the scene**
- **Journey around my Room**
- **Observational Writing Workshop –creative writing exercises**

“Language...has created the word ‘loneliness’ to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word ‘solitude’ to express the glory of being alone.” – Paul Tillich

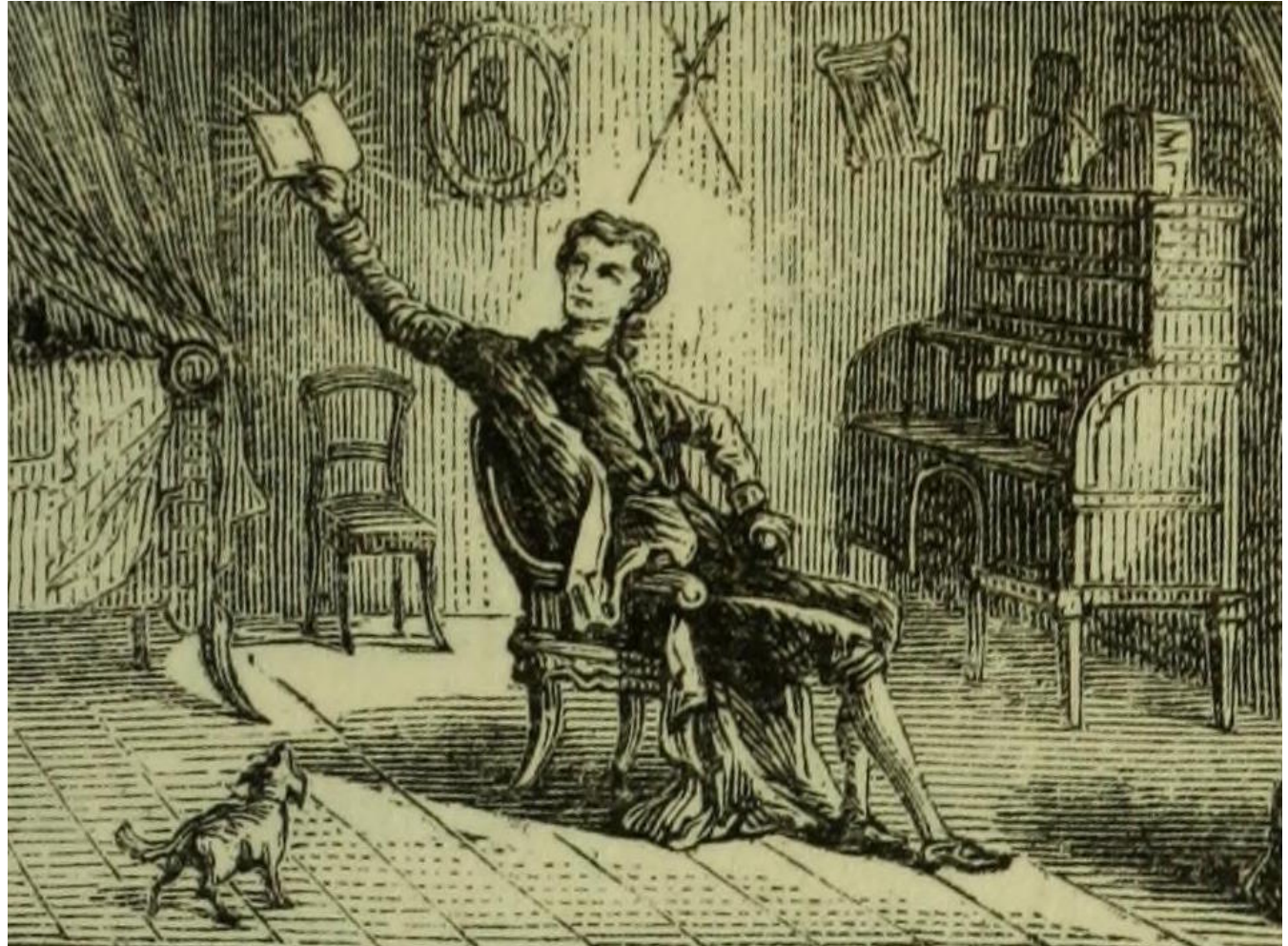
Xavier de Maistre



A Journey Round My Room

&

A Nocturnal Expedition Round My Room



“The sole cause of man’s unhappiness is that he does not know how to stay quietly in his room” **Pascal, Pensées**

Proust: "the profound life of 'still life'"

I sought to find again in reality, I cherished as though for their poetic beauty, the broken gestures of the knives still lying across one another, the swollen convexity of a discarded napkin into which the Sun introduced a patch of yellow velvet, the half empty glass which thus showed to greater advantage the noble sweep of its curved sides and, in the heart of its translucent crystal, clear as frozen daylight, some dregs of wine, dark but glittering with reflected lights, the displacement of solid objects, the transmutation of liquids by the effect of light and shade, the shifting colours of the plums which passed from green to blue to golden yellow in the half-plundered dish, the promenade of the antiquated chairs that came twice daily to take their places round the white cloth spread on the table as on an altar at which were celebrated the rites of the palate, and where in the hollows of the oyster-shells a few drops of lustral water had remained as in tiny holy-water stoups of stone; I tried to find beauty there where I had never imagined before that it could exist, in the most ordinary things, in the profundities of "still life."



Exercise One – Journey Around My Room

- **Write a short descriptive piece using your own space or a fictional one (using image as prompt) to evoke interior world with interior space....**
- A key part of being telling a compelling story is to really pay attention to the surroundings and to translate what you (or your subject) can hear, see, smell, touch, taste and feel into words so that other people can experience what you're experiencing.
- Focusing on the five senses is an important skill to develop as it helps to make your writing richer and multi-dimensional. It's also a great mindful tool for creating calm.
- And if your mind gets taken away to a memory of another time and place feel free to follow that thought too.
- Allow yourself to write whatever comes to mind and don't think too hard about it.

Exercise Two – ‘Objects’ Small Details

- **For this exercise, pick an object from the room where you’re sitting and use it as the starting point for a piece of writing.**
- We’re surrounded by objects in our homes and what can seem ordinary and boring can soon be transformed into something interesting if we bring our attention and imagination to it.
- You might want to tell the literal story of what it is and where it came from or you could make it the centre of a fictional piece.

Exercise Three – Room with a View

- **Windows** and the views from them can be a rich source of inspiration for writing. They're a boundary between one space and another, but a transparent boundary and a natural frame for writing.
- For this exercise either - position yourself so that you can see out of particular window, or choose a 'memory' view that you have or alternatively source an image that you can use as a starting point.
- How can the 'view' act as a portal into the interior world of your 'subject' (could be autobiography, or fictional – docudrama)