

## Cities and the Dead 4

‘What makes Argia different from other cities is that it has earth instead of air. The streets are completely filled with dirt, clay packs the rooms to the ceiling, on every stair another stairway is set in negative, over the roofs of the houses hang layers of rocky terrain like skies with clouds. We do not know if the inhabitants can move about the city, widening the worm tunnels and the crevices where roots twist: the dampness destroys people’s bodies and they will have scant strength; everyone is better off remaining still, prone; anyway, it is dark.

From up here, nothing of Argia can be seen; some say “ It’s down below there,” and we only believe them. The place is deserted. At night, putting your ear to the ground, you can sometimes hear a door slam’

*from ‘Invisible Cities’ by Italo Calvino published by Vintage 1997*

You are discovered sitting still, silent at table surrounded by possessions occasionally lit, revealed through deep darkness. The silence is punctured by the faint sound of music, changing, fading in and out. Occasionally you rise to repeat a strange, illogical ritual the purpose of which is known only to yourself.

Curate the following

1. An item of clothing
2. A book
3. Uncooked ingredients of a favourite meal
4. A secret in a box - something you regret
5. A map marked with significant places visited/ events
6. Your favourite song/ music/ sound effect
7. A photograph
8. A piece of fabric impregnated with your smell
9. Your favourite shoes
10. Something that is very precious to you

