

USE YOUR WORDS!

EXPLORING CONCRETE POETRY

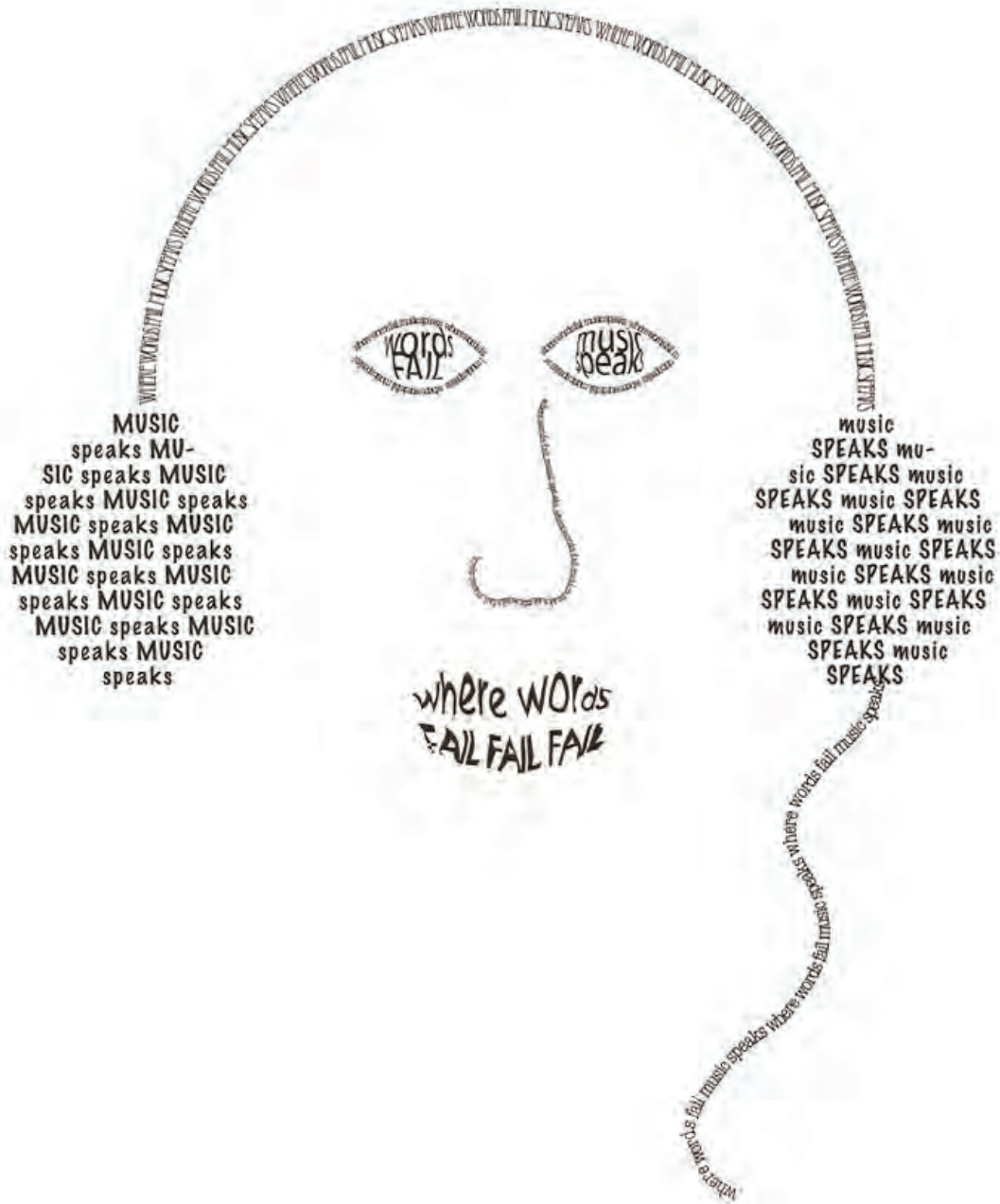
The clock on the wall says it's five 'til free.
 but the kids in my class say it's three.

like attracts like
 like attracts like
 like attracts like
 like attracts like
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I often sit
and wonder if I should one day join
you there. And when that day arrives, what if
you've flown away somewhere? What if you tired of
waiting and took off on a new life? A new beginning with
new children and a new and improved wife. I know
I should be happy for you if that were to be so. But if
you're not there when it's my turn, then I'm not
sure I'd like to go. And if I should go when I am
old, would you even know my face? Because
you were young when you
were taken to thy heavenly
place. And what if when I arrive
you don't even know my name?
What if you don't remember me
and things are not the same?
What if it has been far too
long? O Father, I do

despair!
Oh please won't
you wait for me so
I may join you
there?

It's
cold outside.
I don't want to go
outdoors and play.
But mum says
I have to
anyway.
It's starting to snow
and I'm going to freeze -
brrrr... I hate playing outside on days like these. brrrr...
brrrr... But wait a sec, I've had the brrrr...
most amazing, brilliant idea!
I'll cover myself up
with snow and I'll
hide in here!



just one or two
sips drinking red
wine from your
cherry lips; then
wandering in the
darkness of your
sight; walking all
the night; till
the dawn

the

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The
Creeping
Claws out-
Bearing its teeth.
What's that! A small shadow
Eyes widen, pupils grow. Its body lowers, slowly, down. Back legs
get ready to pounce. Tail sticks straight up. Opens razor filled mouth. Still as
a statue..... Watching closely.... Waiting to strike..... The shadow twitches.
Its presence is confirmed.
Back legs spring out
At the tiny
Claws grip
Shreaking,
Scratching,
Flailing,
mouse
Mouse, mouse, mouse, mouse, mouse.

cat's eyes glow.
in the shadows
stretched.
Then wait!
running to a corner. Cat's
the time to strike is now
Cats flies
shadow
the

We lived beneath the mat,
 Warm and snug and fat,
 But one woe, and that
 Was the Cat!

 To our joys
 a clog, In
 our eyes a
 fog, On our
 hearts a log,
 Was the Dog!

 When the
 Cat's away,
 Then
 The mice
 will
 play.
 But alas!
 one day, (So they say)

 Came the Dog and
 Cat, hunting
 for a
 Rat,
 Crushed
 the mice
 all flat,
 Each
 one
 as
 he
 eat,
 Underneath the mat

 Till the
 mat
 and
 the
 house
 was
 flat.

"Fury said to
 a mouse, That
 he met in the
 house, 'Let
 us both go
 to law: *I*
 will pros-
 ecute *you*.—
 Come, I'll
 take no de-
 nial: We
 must have
 the trial;
 For really
 this morn-
 ing I've
 nothing
 to do.'
 Said the
 mouse to
 the cur,
 'Such a
 trial, dear
 sir, With
 no jury
 or judge,
 would
 be wast-
 ing our
 breath.'
 'T'll be
 judge,
 I'll be
 jury,'
 Said
 cun-
 ning
 old
 Fury:
 'T'll try
 the
 whole
 case
 and
 con-
 demn
 you
 dash.

a
 sp
 arkle
 way up
 high one
 to make all
 your wishes upon
 high in the nighttime sky blinking like a broken
 traffic light shining above us like a canopy
 with holes punched in it growing bright
 each night we look up at them
 in amazement they hold our
 hopes and dreams their twinkles
 assure us that very thing will be alright
 at last

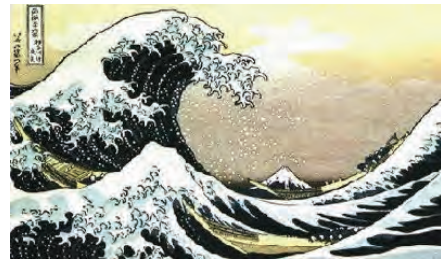


Concrete Poetry

1. Think of an objects that have distinct shapes. Choose one.
2. Think of words you can say about this object.
What specific qualities does it have?
3. What are some things that can be done with it or that it does?
4. In your notes, circle the words and ideas you like the best.
5. Lightly draw the shape of your object in pencil. Then write the words around the shape to create your rough draft.
6. Think about these questions and then begin your final draft.
 - Will I hand write or type the final draft?
 - What color and shape will the letters be?
 - Should I leave a lot of 'white space' around the shape?

Example Poem

1. wave, surfboard, guitar, star, galaxy, comet, iPod
2. power, rushing, splash, glistening, sandy shores,
sharks, foamy white beards, crash, roar, hurrying back out to
sea, giving presents of shells, foamy white beards,
3. surfing, swimming, dangerous, tsunami,



wave wave wave wave rushing into shore rising high like a giant white
giving gifts of glistening sea shells white white white white white white
WAVE WAVE
rushing rolling crashing
roaring rushing crashing rolling crashing
white white white white white white white white white white white

