



YEAR 3 ENGLISH, WRITING TO ENTERTAIN - SHAPE POETRY

Calligram Rules

Calligrams create or follow the outline of a shape.
They are sometimes called shape poems or concrete poems.

Falling leaves. Swaying, fluttering. Rustling under foot. Drifting into piles. Like autumnal snow. I miss the green leaves. When will it be spring again?

The poem's shape relates to its theme or topic.

Falling leaves.

Swaying, fluttering.
Rustling under foot.
Drifting into piles.
Like autumnal snow.
I miss the green leaves.
When will it be spring again?

Words and lines are squashed and stretched to fill up the space inside an outline shape.



Calligram Words

FLUFFY Wiggly HARD CHUBBY HOT cold

smooth prickly curly SQUISHY furry SPIKY

dripping wiry sketchy FUZZY leafy soft

tiny

small

BIG

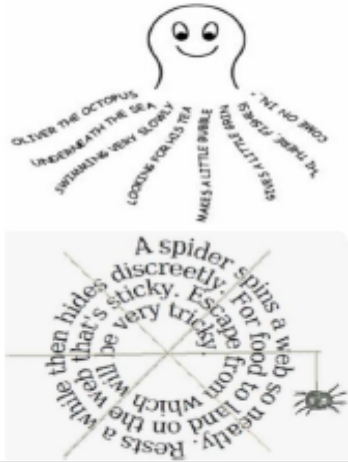
MASSIVE





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Overview

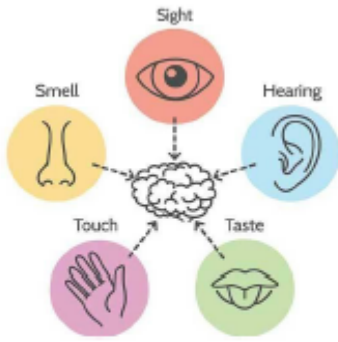


Shape Poems

- Shape poems are a type of visual poetry.
- Visual poems are poems that are made to look interesting or unusual on the page.
- In shape poems, the words are laid out to create an image of what the poem is about.
- For example, a shape poem about eating healthily may be presented to look like an apple.
- You should consider your line length in order to create shapes and well-written poetry.
- Word choices and sounds are also very important.

Content – What am I writing about?

- You can write shape poems about anything, but you should always aim to appeal to the reader's five senses.
- Think: what does the thing you are writing about look, smell, sound, feel and taste (if you can eat it!) like?
- Some other important questions to consider
 - Where does it live? How would you describe its habitat?
 - Where in the world can you find it?
 - How does it make you feel? How do you imagine it feels?
 - What objects does it use? What things does it eat?
 - What do other people think of it?



- Most poems have an important message. They are designed to make the reader think about the idea or thing in a certain way.
- For example, the shape poem on the right gives a message about how important trees are and the many things that they do.
- Think carefully about the message that you want to give about your subject.

Trees are old friends. They have many jobs: homes for animals, shelters from the cold and the rain, oxygen producers, and providers of shade. So big, so alive. *from Jack, Jennifer*

Language – What words and techniques should I use?

You should consider your word choices, in order to create a vivid picture in the mind of the reader. This will help them to imagine what you are writing your poem about. You can do this by carefully using:

Nouns (things): e.g. rather than 'man', be more exact, e.g. 'explorer' or 'pensioner.'

Adjectives (describing words): e.g. rather than the big ocean, the 'huge ocean.'

Verbs (actions): e.g. rather than 'ran', you could use 'sprinted' or 'jogged.'



Rhyme can be used to give your poems a rhythm and make them sound good.

-Rhyming words sound the same at the end.

-For example, snow and go, door and more, grass and pass, and belly and jelly.



Similes are when you compare one thing to another thing for effect, e.g. 'sleeping like a log.'

Alliteration is when you use the same sound at the beginning of words, e.g. 'The beast battered the boat.'

Poems do not have to rhyme – don't force it!

Punctuation Checklist



-End sentences with a:

Full stop (for most sentences), exclamation mark (for funny, scary or exciting points) or question mark (for questions).

Polar Shape Poem – Word Mat

snow sleigh penguin polar bear seal killer whale
ice frozen slippery storm blizzard wind
mittens sleet freezing harsh adventure trek
white darkness walrus Arctic Antarctic igloo
husky sea lion sled snowflake wolves

In your writing, remember to also use the spelling, grammar and handwriting rules that you have learnt.

Structure – How do I set my poem out?

In a twist

We felt the rain, wind, and hail, and
Then the thunder and lightning came.
The winds gathered up and began to spin
Like a spinning top, sucking up dust like a vacuum cleaner.
The twister went around and around, like a merry-go-round.
The goats of air were picking up dust.
It continued to roar loudly.
Destroying everything
Along the way.
Soon it was
Gone.

Line Length

Think carefully about the length of your lines of poetry. When you end a line, you will make the reader pause. Careful line lengths will also help to create your shape poem image!

Syllables

Syllables are the beats in words, e.g. there are two syllables in window and one syllable in door. You should think carefully about the number of syllables in each line, and throughout your poem. Too little or too many syllables, and your poem won't sound quite right!

Top Tip!

Sketch the picture first. Then keep your words within the lines. You can always rub the drawing lines out at a later stage!



Important Vocabulary

Poetry Rhyme Line Length Shape Poems Visual Poetry Sounds Rhyme Simile Alliteration Syllables