

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

SOUND POETRY

★ Using the senses for writing poetry is a useful technique. Our sense of hearing, for example, can provide much input for writing verse--especially free verse. By capitalizing on the sound environment at hand, students can be encouraged to concentrate on listening to sounds. Each sound can be recorded on lined paper in a colorful phrase or sentence. The phrase or sentence should not exceed the physical limitations of one line of the paper. We have found that this helps with rhythm to a certain degree. When a number of such sound impressions are gathered (8 to 10 suffice), then the student is asked to quietly read and reread the writing for the purpose of placing the statements in the best, most pleasing order. When the ordering has been decided, the statements are numbered for easy reading, and an oral sharing session can ensue. The teacher should participate also and can be the first volunteer in the oral reading of sound poetry.

In addition to the classroom and the immediate area outside the classroom windows, you may find inspiration for verse writing by taking your class to:

1. A quiet nature trail
2. The cafeteria
3. The hallway
4. The library
5. The airport
6. The supermarket
7. The football practice field
8. The principal's office
9. The playground
10. The school boiler room
11. The corner (for street sounds)
12. The shopping mall



Here are some samples of sound poetry.

Street Sounds

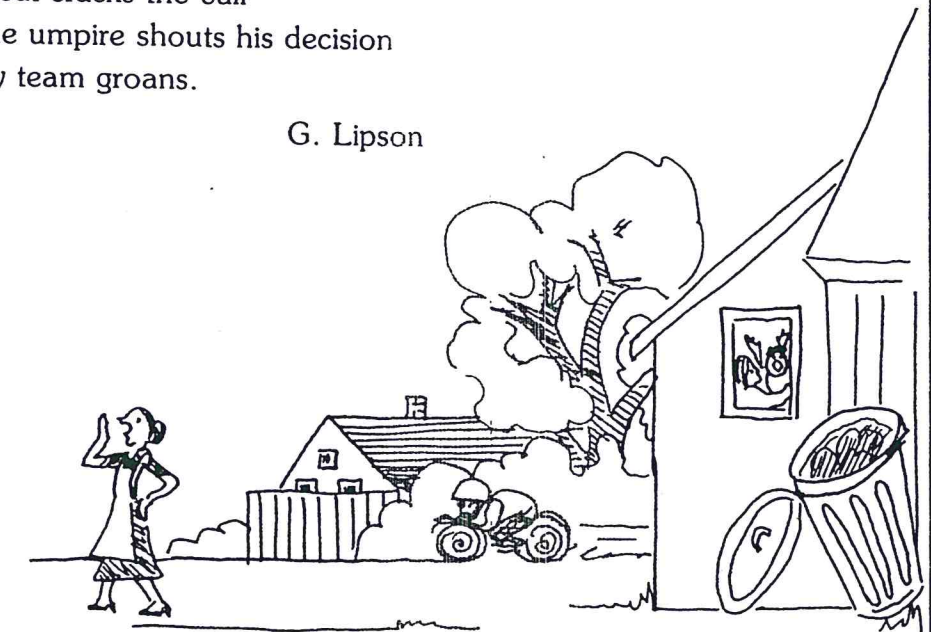
The whizzing of a motor bike charging down the street
A clinking garbage can lid
Somewhere a buzz saw is working
Kids shouting and shooting baskets on the drive
A baby's cry floats out the window
The wind rustles the trees overhead
My mother's voice calls me.

G. Lipson

The Game

Chattering from the players
Stones kicked on the gravel
Balls whipped into mitts
Yelling back and forth from the bleachers
A bat cracks the ball
The umpire shouts his decision
My team groans.

G. Lipson





SOUND POETRY
Can You Hear a Poem?

Sound poetry is created by listening to sounds and recording those sound impressions on paper in a pleasing order.

1. Find a good listening location.
2. Listen carefully. Closing your eyes may help you concentrate on the sounds. Do this for at least three minutes.
3. Now, select one sound at a time to concentrate on. Think of a colorful way to capture what you hear in words.
4. Write your phrase or statement down on line one. Keep to one line only.
5. Now, concentrate on a second sound. Capture it in words. Write it on the second line.
6. Continue doing this until you have recorded ten sound impressions.

7. Look carefully through your list. Check the eight statements you like best. Proofread and edit them. Make each statement sparkling clear.
8. Take a fresh sheet of paper or use the back of this one and rewrite your poem. You may want to rearrange the order of your lines until you decide on the most pleasing poetic sound.
9. Give your poem a title and be sure to sign your name as poet.