

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia uses words whose sounds give suggestions to your senses. In other words, the word imitates the sound or action.

Purpose:

To write a free verse poem in which words are used to make sounds.

Procedure:

1. As a class, brainstorm and list possible subjects and the types of sounds the subjects might contain. Onomatopoeia is the most interesting when the subject of the poem is surrounded by or makes interesting sounds. (i.e.: a wild storm, a soccer match, a rock concert, a raging fire, or Halloween night.)
2. Choose a subject for your poem.
3. List the sounds you might use in your poem.
4. Your poem should tell a little story, tell about an event, or describe your subject. Decide what your poem is going to say. Brainstorm a sequence for the story, event, or description.
5. Decide which sounds to use and where the sounds will go in the poem. Fit these into your brainstorming from step #4. It is expected that you have a significant amount of onomatopoetic sounds in your poem.
6. Move words around until the poem sounds just right.
7. Type and illustrate your poem.

Example:

It's the Witch

Listen! Listen!
do you hear
something queer
something that goes
slish
slosh
slash
slish
slosh
slash
do you hear?
It's It's
It's It's
WITCH! WITCH!
Sloshing in the rain
with her crooked cane
her face
olive green!!!!
and then I heard a
SCREAM!
He ha he he
It's the
WITCH

~Cara Taylor