

A CREATIVE BREAK

1. ACROSTIC POEMS

Acrostic poem – a poem based on a word or words in which each line of poetry begins with a successive letter of that word.

EXAMPLE:

MYSTERY

Musing over details of
Yet another murder near Victoria
Station, Inspector Morse reviewed the
Twelve suspects,
Each well-alibied and professionally above
Reproach,
Yet one gruesomely psychopathic.

DANCING

Dancing through dreams,
Awakened by the
Never-ending music
Catching the sky
In one tremendous leap.
Now soaring powerfully, while
Grasping for the stars

ASSIGNMENT: Create 2 acrostic poems.

#1 – Do an acrostic starting each line with a successive letter of the alphabet.
Each line must be alliterative (each word begins with the same sound)

EXAMPLE

ABC.....

An amazing American antelope, Alicia
Bounded beautifully beyond
Corrals and climbed
Dancing delightfully
(and so on E to Z)

#2 – Do an acrostic based upon a person's name which describes a Super Bowl party or any other party you know about. Each line must be alliterative.

EXAMPLE

BILL

Bowls and bowls of banana splits
Islands of ice cream
Lots of luscious lemonade and
Lip-smacking loads of liverwurst

MATE

Mounds of marvelous milky ways
And amazing apples
Terrifically **tasty** Tostitos
Exotic egg salad

2. NOTICING POEM

Artists must capture and express the slight, often elusive, nuances of the world in order to make their art authentic. A writer is an artist with words. He or she sees the world – its features, people, relationships, personalities – in terms of fine variations of tint and hue and communicates these to the reader.

ASSIGNMENT:

Create a poem based upon the refrain “The nuances of _____”

Fill in the blank with some simple item and then describe it in all the various nuances you can think of.

Each verse should emphasize a different sense.

EXAMPLE

The nuances of popcorn

Crumbs in the creases of my jeans, a butter stain at the bottom of the microwave

The nuances of popcorn

The smell of popcorn with butter, popcorn with margarine, cheese popcorn

The nuances of popcorn

The very first pop when you start popping it, when it pops like crazy, the last few pops when it's almost done

The nuances of popcorn

The feel of butter on your tongue, a large popcorn husk stuck between your teeth

The nuances of popcorn

The taste of burnt popcorn, unpopped kernels, grease on your hands

The nuances of popcorn

3—ANAGRAMMATICAL TRANSPOSITION

In this activity you will be writing a poem with words on a word list. The words are from an existing poem. You are to write a new poem using the words. You may add or delete a few words or use some words more than once, but don't do too much of this.

EXAMPLE

All that is gold does not glitter
Not all those who wander are lost
The old that is strong does not wither
Deep roots are not reached by the frost
From the ashes a fire shall be woken
A light from the shadows shall spring
Renewed shall be blade that was broken
The crownless again shall be king
from The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

Word list

a, a, again, all, all, are, are, ashes, be, be, be, blade, broken, by, crownless, deep, does, does, is, is, fire, from, from, frost, glitter, gold, king, light, lost, not, not, not, not, old, reached, renewed, roots, shadows, shall, shall, shall, shall, spring, strong, that, that, that, the, the, the, the, the, those, wander, was, whither, who, woken

NEW POEM

*Woken by the light,
Blade shadows from frost,
Crownless from the fire, the ashes
The king who shall wander is old.*

*Shall deep roots spring strong again?
Shall all that was broken be renewed?
Shall gold glitter?
Whither are all those lost?*

ASSIGNMENT (3 poems)

1. Write a poem based on these words
allow, and, bamboos, get, me, mister, my, of out, plant, mad, these, to, toad
2. Write a poem based on these words
a, ask, bucket, for, glory, I, morning, my, neighbor, round, the, twined, water, will
3. Write a poem based on these words
a, distant, dragonfly, eyes, hills, his, in, reflected, the