

Poem

Shape sound, image and line breaks to make meaning

COMMON FORMS

Free verse, spoken word, form poetry

TEXT SHAPE

A deliberate pattern of images, sound, lines or stanzas; ending that shifts or resonates

FEATURES AND LANGUAGE

Sound pattern; imagery; compression; line breaks; precise verbs

PLAN AND TEACH IT

Begin with an image, sound or question. Read aloud, revise each word and use line breaks intentionally.

tone and register

Voice may be intimate, playful or formal; choices are purposeful rather than fixed.

LINKED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Try: One-Minute Freewrite · Precise Verb Swap · Micro Presentation

A MODEL TO NOTICE

Bring a short example. Ask who it is for, what it is trying to do and which feature helps it work. Compare it with a less effective draft.

QUICK CHECKLIST

- ☐ The opening makes the purpose clear: Shape sound, image and line breaks to make meaning.
- ☐ Each part has a clear place and moves the reader towards the purpose.
- ☐ The language features, tone and level of formality fit the reader and situation.

A QUICK CLASSROOM ROUTINE

- 1 NOTICE** Read a model for purpose, shape and audience.
- 2 REHEARSE** Practise a useful sentence or language feature aloud.
- 3 WRITE** Plan, draft and use the guide as a checklist.
- 4 REVIEW** Ask a partner whether the text does its job; revise one feature.
Keep the subject thinking ambitious. Make the language visible, practise it, then fade the support.