

CONCRETE POETRY

Concrete poetry is distinguished from other forms of poetry by the unusual placement of lines and words on the page, so that the structure of the poem is an integral part of the meaning of the poem. The words are often printed to form a visual image of the topic of the poem.

Here are examples of concrete poems:

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I hear the whistle of the beautiful bird of prey the bird I see far away the cat heard

GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE

Siamese Cat

Boisterous monkey
black-faced
black-eared

elegant
long
tailed
yet
how

mischievous
playful, daring
yet how faithfully
canine, more like
a puppy with its need for adoration

(R.M., Repton, England)


Pick a photo or graphic from today's edition of *your newspaper* and paste it on the back of this work sheet. Write down one feature that is particularly striking. Be as concise as possible. Jot down a number of descriptive words and phrases conjured by that feature. In the space below, write a concrete poem inspired by the photo.

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Jennifer Hind, "Concrete poetry," *The Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, 2003.

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