

## AS-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

### Found Poem Assignment

Read the model found poem “He Remembers”, created from a passage in Chapter 1. Consider how the poem works to showcase powerful language and imagery, but also to convey the unique perspective of Ashoke Ganguli.

**Select an evocative, descriptive passage (about 1 page in length) from Chapter 6 or 7 and create your own found poem that highlights powerful language and imagery and shows the unique perspective of a character of your choice.**

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#### Found Poem Instructions

1. Carefully re-read the prose text you have chosen, and look for 50–100 words that stand out in the prose passage. Highlight or underline details, words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting. Note especially examples that highlight Lahiri’s powerful language and imagery and showcase a particular character’s unique perspective.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of the details, words and phrases you underlined, keeping them in the order that you found them. Double space between lines so that the lines are easy to work with. Feel free to add others that you notice as you go through the prose piece again. □
3. Look back over your list and cut out everything that is dull, or unnecessary, or that just doesn’t showcase powerful language, imagery, or perspective. Try to cut your original list in half. □
4. As you look over the shortened list, think about the tone that the details and diction convey. Make sure that you have words that communicate the unique perspective of your chosen character.
5. Make any minor changes necessary to create your poem. You can change punctuation and make little changes to the words to make them fit together (such as changing the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalizations). □
6. When you’re close to an edited-down version, if you absolutely need to add a word or two to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, to make a point, *you may add up to two words of your own*. That’s two (2) and only two! □
7. Read back over your edited draft one more time and make any deletions or minor changes. □
8. Check the words and choose a title for your poem. □
9. Type your poem using a word processor. Space or arrange the words so that they’re poem-like. Pay attention to line breaks, layout, and other elements that will emphasize important words or significant ideas in the poem.
  - Read aloud as you arrange the words! Test the possible line breaks by pausing slightly. If it sounds good, it’s probably right. □
  - Arrange the words so that they make a rhythm you like. You can □  
space                      words                      out  
or                      runthemalltogether.  
You can also put key words on lines by themselves so that  
they  
are  
all  
alone
  - You can shape the entire poem so that it’s wide or tall or shaped like an object (say a heart?). □
  - Emphasize words by playing with boldface and italics, different sizes of letters, and so forth. □
10. At the bottom of the poem, tell where the words in the poem came from. For example, “From Chapter 6 of *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri”.

Instructions adapted from “Found and Headline Poems” from *Getting the Knack: 20 Poetry Writing Exercises* by Stephen Dunning

and William Stafford and

FOUND POEM FROM *THE NAMESAKE*

Source: <http://nairbfunk.tripod.com/entireunit.htm>

## **He Remembers**

He can still remember their shouts  
Asking if anyone was alive.  
He remembers trying to shout back  
Unsuccessfully, his mouth emitting nothing  
But the faintest rasp.

He remembers the sound of people  
Half-dead around him,  
Moaning and tapping on the walls of the train,  
Whispering hoarsely for help,  
Words that only the trapped and injured could possibly hear.  
Blood drenched his chest and the right arm of his shirt.

He remembers the acrid odor of flames,  
The buzzing flies,  
Children crying,  
The taste of blood on his tongue.

He remembers believing that he was dying,  
That perhaps he was already dead.  
The pages of his book, which had been tossed from his hand,  
Fluttered in two sections a few feet away from the train.

From Chapter 1 of *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

NAME

DATE

PERIOD

**AS-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**Found Poem Assignment Passage Analysis and Planning Sheet**

My chosen passage is on page(s) \_\_\_\_\_.

A brief **summary** of what happens in this passage:

The **character** I am focusing on:

**Imagery and Figurative Language in this passage:**

smell	sight	taste	touch	sound
figurative language			other interesting language	

Why this passage is interesting/impactful to me:

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