



CREATIVE SPARK WORKSHEET

# A FOUND POEM

## CREATE

Whether you have 10 minutes or half an hour, this worksheet offers creative prompts to guide you through writing your own found poem.

Use this guide to explore, experiment and, most of all, have fun.

## CONNECT

Engage your friends, parents, kids, and loved ones,  
either in-person, by snail mail or over the phone.

## SHARE

Sharing is caring. Email your completed works to [contact@ruthstable.org](mailto:contact@ruthstable.org) -  
we will **share your act of kindness with seniors affected by isolation**  
and display your work at our *Enduring Inspiration* virtual exhibition.

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# A FOUND POEM

Poetry is everywhere. It hides in things we say and write, from everyday prose of our conversations to the rich language in books and newspapers.

**Found poems** are composed from words and phrases taken from another text, leaving the responsibility of selecting words and communicating ideas up to chance, rather than our self-conscious.

Let's give it a try and make a short poem. Take a newspaper or magazine. **Find** twelve (12) words that pique your interest. **Cut** them out.

To begin, select one word to be your **theme** or title.  
Then, arrange your found words using a single word in each line.

What happens if you select a different word as a theme? How will you change the order of your lines.

Now, let's connect the words in phrases and reduce the number of lines.  
What happens if you use all twelve words in a single line.  
How short can you make your poem?

**TRY THIS**

See next page for more ideas!

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Let's experiment and **write** your found poem by following these steps:

Take a newspaper or a magazine. **Find** from thirty to fifty words, phrases and bits of imagery that catch your attention. Make sure to choose verbs, adjectives, and nouns. **Cut** them out.

**Place** your found words and phrases into a bag and shake it.

Take out cutouts one by one. **Copy** in the order in which they left the bag.

**Read** your draft aloud. Experiment with punctuation and line breaks.

**Give a title** to your poem. In your worksheet, enter a final copy of the poem, **signed**.

**TRY THIS**

See next page for more ideas!

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### TRY THIS

#### CHOOSE A TOPIC /

Your poem can be on any topic or theme you like. For instance, it could be about something as broad as music or travel, or more concrete like a trend you've read in the news. Or you might collect words from different articles around one theme, such as food or joy.

#### MAKE A COLLAGE /

Form a visual poem using the words, phrases and imagery you found by pasting them on colorful paper. Shape your poem in a pattern, playing with different print styles.

#### SHARE YOUR POEM /

Call a friend and read your poem aloud. Put it on the postcard and send it to a friend. Can they illustrate it and send it back to you? Challenge them to create their own poem.

### REFLECT

What are your favorite or least favorite word combinations? What is the effect of reading words that have been put together?