

Two Poem Strategies and Examples, *provided by Brittney Hennigh*

Cut-It-Down Poetry

Step One: Pick a Topic

Example: Trees

Step Two: Quickwrite a Paragraph

Example :

Trees **sway** in the **wind** and stand **strong** through the storm. I love to **climb** their **branches** and **read books in the shade**. The trees bloom in the spring and the **leaves fall** at the end of every year. There are small trees, big trees, pink flowers and green leaves. I loved the **Grandmother tree** in Pocahontas. I remember **talking** to a tree in my back yard when I was a child and waiting for the wind to move the leaves to let me know the tree was speaking back to me. Planting trees is a sign of **life** and a **new beginning**. I love seeing old trees that are so big I **can't imagine how** many years **old** they are.

Step Three: Cut it down to 20 Words

Example :

Trees **sway** wind **strong climb** branches read books **shade leaves fall Grandmother** tree talking **life** new **beginning** imagine how **old**

Step Four: Cut it down to 10 Words

Example :

Sway strong climb shade leaves fall Grandmother life beginning old

Step Five: Arrange your 10 words into a Poem

Example One:

Trees
Sway
Strong
Climb
Shade
Leaves
Fall
Grandmother
Life
Beginning
Old

Example Two:

Trees
Life's climb,
old and strong.
You sway and fall,
stay under Grandmother's shade,
it's a new beginning when leaves fall.

Book Spine Poetry

Step One: Click on the link to view a how-to video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9tZWBYFe5w&feature=related>

Step Two: You may use your own book lists (WN), the book lists below, or books off any shelf to write a five line poem.

Book List:

YAL Books

The Hunger Games
The Giver
Twilight
Holes
The Outsiders
Holes
A Wrinkle in Time
Uglies
Number the Stars
Little Women
Looking for Alaska
Hatchet
The Secret Garden
Just Listen
Lord of the Flies
Frostbite
Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry

Historical Books

The Origin of Species
The Republic
The Odyssey
The Art of War
To Kill a Mockingbird
Silent Spring
Paradise Lost
Frankenstein
Pride and Prejudice
Beyond Good and Evil
The Old Man and the Sea
A Christmas Carol
A History of the American People
Mornings on Horseback
Common Sense
The Mind of the South
Only Yesterday

Zombie Books

The Walking Dead
Feed
The Rising
I am Legend
The Forest of Hands and Teeth
Deadline
The Enemy
Hungry for You
Book of the Dead
Blood Crazy
Dust
Aftertime
Ashes
Dawn of the Dead
Dying to Live
Monster Nation
Married with Zombies

Example One:

Twilight
The Art of War
Common Sense
Aftertime
Monster Nation

Example Two:

The Secret Garden
Just Listen
Frostbite
Silent Spring
Ashes