

BRIAN P. CLEARY



EATING

MY



WORDS



AND 128



OTHER POEMS

Lerner 

# Write a Haiku Poem

A haiku is a poem that has three lines about a topic.

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

EXAMPLE:



**ZZZZZZZZ**

On the other side  
of the pillow—that's where all  
the best dreams are found.



From *Eating My Words* by Brian P. Cleary, page 21

## Your Turn

1.	_____	5 syllables
2.	_____	7 syllables
3.	_____	5 syllables

# Write a Hyperbole Poem

Hyperbole is a technique in writing in which exaggeration is used.

When we exaggerate, we claim that something is much bigger or greater than it really is. For example, if I said “my dog is as fat as a house” or “I can run faster than the speed of light,” I would most definitely be exaggerating.

## OUR CLASSROOM

*EXAMPLE:*



Our classroom is  
the best one in the world!  
Everyone is as  
good as gold.  
We are so hungry for  
knowledge  
We learn something new  
every second of the day.



## Your Turn

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# Write a Tanka Poem

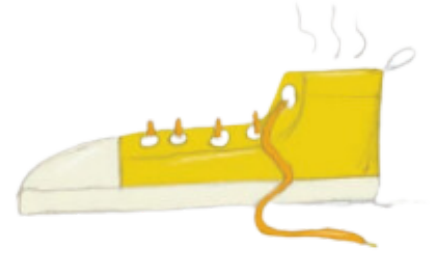
Tanka means 'short song' and is an ancient Japanese form of poetry that tells a story of life, feelings or nature. Modern tanka poems are broken into five poetic lines. The basic structure of a tanka poem is 5 – 7 – 5 – 7 – 7. Tankas contain different types of literary devices, such as personification, metaphors, & similes.

EXAMPLE:



## DEAD TO ME

As I wear my new  
sneakers out of the shoe store,  
my old ones, muddy,  
torn, and worn are placed in the  
shoebox--a cardboard coffin.



From *Eating My Words* by Brian P. Cleary, page 102

## Your Turn

1.	_____	5 syllables
2.	_____	7 syllables
3.	_____	5 syllables
4.	_____	7 syllables
5.	_____	7 syllables

# Write a Favorite Things Poem

List poems, as the name suggests, are made up of lists of things, places, people, colors, emotions, sounds, events, and more. Some rhyme and some don't, and they can make you think, smile, squirm, giggle, nod your head, or sigh.

Step 1: On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of your favorite things.

Step 2: See if you can rhyme anything on your list with something else that you like.

Step 3: Since this is a poem about things that you like, you could end with your most favorite thing in the world.



## ***FAVORITE THINGS***

*YOUR TURN:*



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# Write a Free Verse Poem

In free verse, there are no rules about rhyme or meter.



Write a free verse poem about the changing seasons. Use imagery to describe the colors, smells, and sounds of each season.

Write a rough draft of your poem below:

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# Write an Acrostic Poem

An acrostic is a poem in which the first letters of each line spell out a word or phrase.  
Choose a color and write the letters vertically.

**Y**ay!  
**E**ggs of gold  
**L**emons so sweet  
**L**ight from the sun  
**O**h how bright everything is  
**W**hen spring comes!



## Your Turn

# Write an Acrostic Name Poem



Write an acrostic poem using your own name by writing it vertically in the pink squares. Use words that are unique about you or describe you that start with each letter of your name.




# Write an Onomatopoeia Poem

Onomatopoeia (on-uh-mah-tuh-pee-uh) is a term for words that sound like the actions they describe. For example: the word “boom” sounds like the noise thunder makes, while the word “vroom” sounds like the noise a car makes. Using onomatopoeia is a fun way to create vivid imagery in a poem without having to use a lot of words. Using the example as a guide, create your own poem using almost nothing but onomatopoeia words plus a catchy ending that rhymes.

## MS. GARCIA AND ONOMATOPOEIA

EXAMPLE:



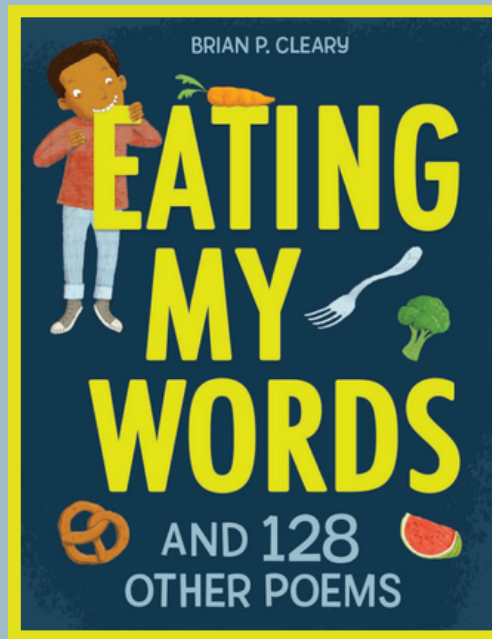
My teacher, Ms. Garcia,  
loves onomatopoeia.  
Each clippity-clop  
and each cackle.  
Each ding and each drip.  
Every flop and  
each flip.  
Each clank, every click,  
and each crackle....



From *Eating My Words* by Brian P. Cleary, page 108

## Your Turn

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____



## Eating My Words: and 128 Other Poems

Interest Level: Grade 4 - 8

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**Brian P. Cleary** is the author of the **Words Are CATegorical®**, **Math Is CATegorical®**, **Food Is CATegorical™**, and **Animal Groups Are CATegorical™** series, as well as several picture books. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.



While studying for a degree in Manchester, **Andy Rowland** accepted his first drawing award, the Macmillan Children's Book Prize. Years later, he has more than twenty published books to his name. He lives in England.



**Richard Watson** spent many of his younger years drawing medieval knights, dragons, and entire comic books inspired by his love of reading. He studied illustration at Lincoln University and lives in the north of England.

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