

Poetry Recycled, Remixed, Spoken

Packaging Pieced into Parts of a Poem



Materials Needed

- STEAM Journal
- Junk mail
- Food packages
- Scissors
- Crayons, pen, pencil

Grade Range

3-5
6-8

Topics/Skills

Poetry, Sentence Structure
Stanza, Fine motor skills

Learning Standards

CCSS ELA: [Reading](#)
[Informational Texts](#)

Duration

20-60 minutes

Prep Time

5 minutes

When constraints are placed on familiar practices, creativity blossoms. Words recycled from printed text on junk mail and food boxes provides a unique opportunity to explore words playfully.

Activity Challenge

Cut out approximately 20 to 30 different words from junk mail and food packages. Rearrange the cut-out words you found to make a poem with a title plus at least three lines.

Preparation

1. Choose a workspace and gather Materials Needed.
2. Read junk mail and food packages for words that stand out to you.

To Do

1. Cut out about 20 - 30 different words, including at least 5 verbs.
2. Arrange a few words to make a title, usually an adjective and a noun or a verb that reflects the main idea of the poem.
3. Arrange the rest of the words to make a poem with at least 3 lines.
4. Read your "found" poem aloud, then write it in a STEAM journal.

Observations

Count and compare the number of nouns and verbs in the poem. What does that tell you about language and parts of speech? What were some of the reasons for your word choices in the poem? Choose one word from the poem that you think is the most important and explain why.

Extensions

- Draw an image that is related to the poem.
- Revise your poem to use fewer words to express the same idea.
- Reread your poem and express the same ideas with 10 more words.

The Content Behind the Activity

Poetry is a form of art. It provides a platform for people to express their thoughts and emotions and can take many different forms and serve many different functions. In some cultures, both ancient and modern, the spoken word has sacred and spiritual associations. Words, and how we express them, offer glimpses into our shared views as well as our unique views, and provides insight into what it means to be human.