

Concrete or Shape Poetry

Concrete poems are just poems written in a shape. They are a fun way to write poems.

Concrete or Shape poems are ones whose words form a shape that shows the poem's subject as a picture as well as through its meaning.

The best part is that these poems don't have to rhyme but they can if you want them to.

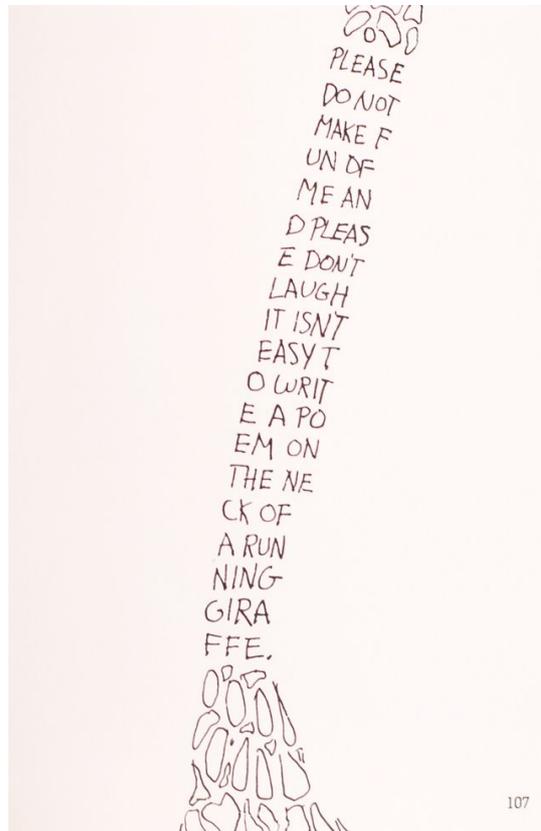
Snowman By Ken Nesbit

It's
cold outside.
I don't want to go
outdoors and play.
But mum says
I have to
anyway.
It's starting to snow
and I'm going to freeze -
I hate playing outside on days like these.
But wait a sec, I've had the
most amazing, brilliant idea!
I'll cover myself up
with snow and I'll
hide in here!

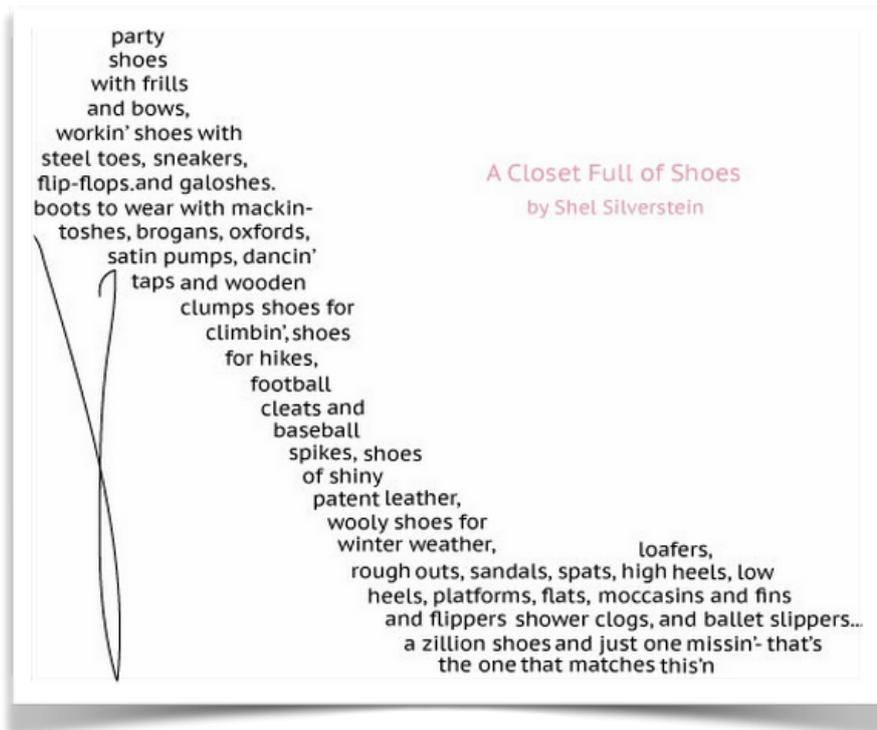


How about these fun poems by Shel Silverstein.

Running Giraffe



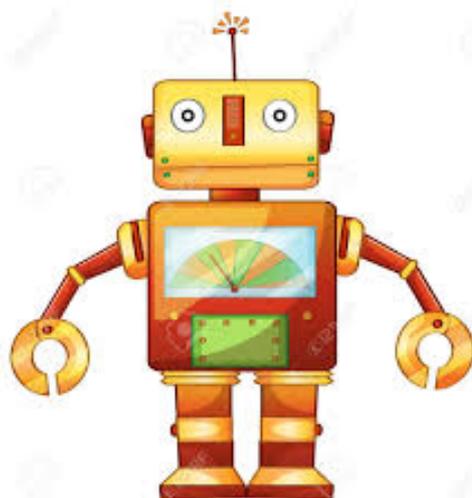
A Closet full Of Shoes

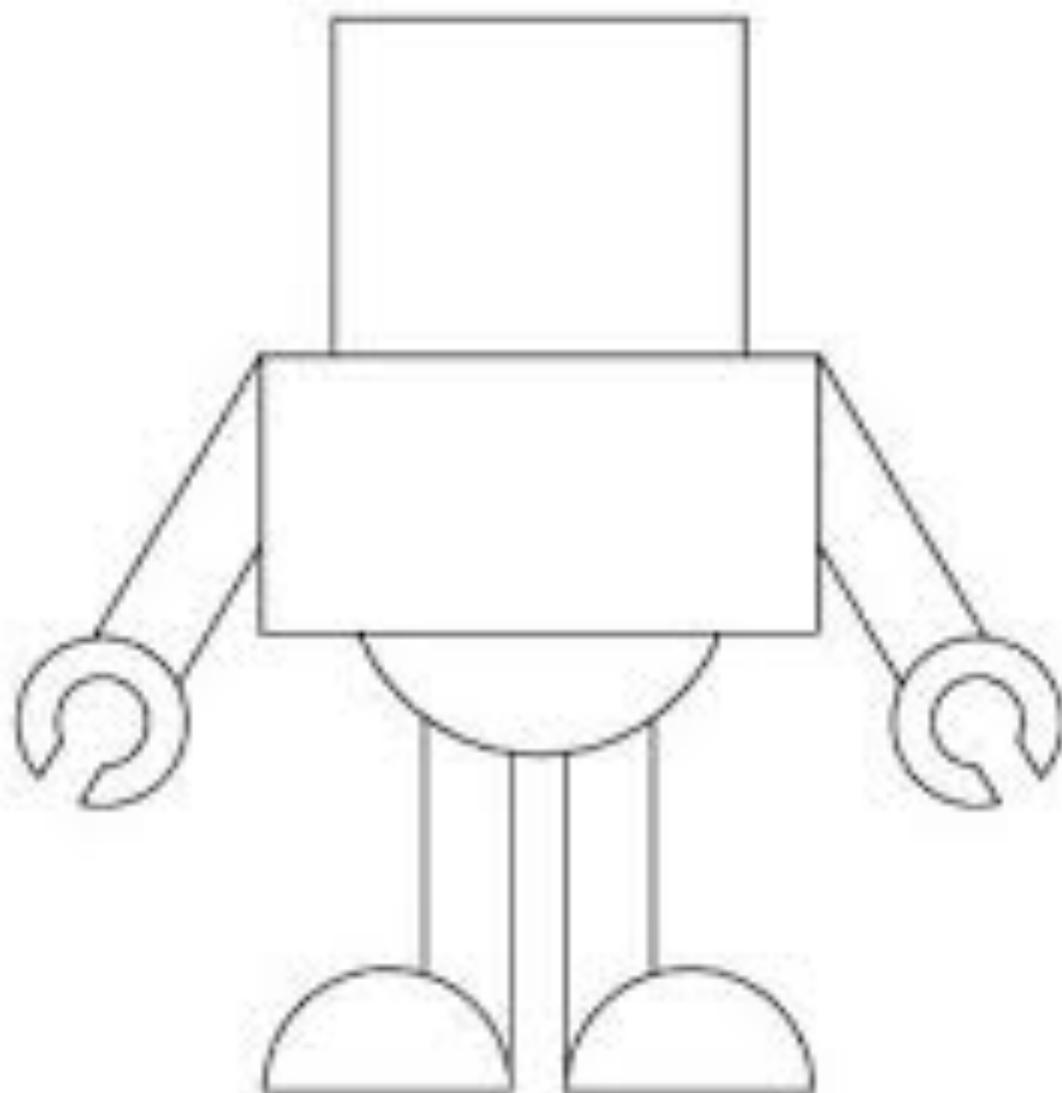


Read this Robot poem by Ken Nesbitt can you turn it into a shape poem by using the robot shape below?

My Robot's Misbehaving

My robot's misbehaving.
It won't do as I say.
It will not dust the furniture
or put my toys away.
My robot never helps me
with homework or my chores.
It doesn't do my laundry
and neglects to clean my floors.
It claims it can't cook dinner.
It never makes my bed.
No matter what I ask of it,
it simply shakes its head.
My robot must be broken.
I'll need to get another.
Until that day, I have to say,
I'm glad I have my mother.





Try writing your own concrete poem.

Write about something you know (and can draw), such as a favourite food, animal or sport.

- Using a pencil sketch an outline of your object as a guide when writing.
- Write your poem normally. Try to describe how the subject makes you feel. The words will be fitted into your drawing, so don't make it too long.
- Remember it doesn't have to rhyme.
- Lightly in pencil, or on the computer, write your poem into the shape. It's ok if it doesn't fit properly yet, this is just a practice.
- You can make your writing bigger or smaller in certain parts of the drawing.
- You could rub out the outline of your shape, so that it is just the words from your poem left creating the image.
- In the snowman example the poet added the 'brrr...'s afterwards to make the picture look better, but without interrupting the story of the poem. If you want to try details like this, think of comic-book-style effect words like 'flash', 'purr', 'phew' or 'zzzz...' to add another element to the story-picture.

For some readymade shapes ready to write your poem in, go to:

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/poetry/shapepoems>

