

Write a List Poem

Expository writing is meant to inform, explain, describe, or define a subject. In a list poem the writer is telling you something--- pointing something out--- saying, "look at this" or "think about this". You are simply describing a subject.

Directions:

1. Start by thinking of an interesting place in your house that has an unusual assortment of things in it to write about. Here are a few suggestions:

What's on the top shelf of my closet?
What's under my bed?
What's in the refrigerator?
What's in my sweater pocket?
What's in that old box in the garage?
What's in the kitchen junk drawer?

You can also come up with a topic of your own.

2. Make that your opening line.
3. The rest of the poem is just a list of the items you find there.

Method:

Line 1 What's in the [name the place]
Line 2 [name and describe item 1]
Line 3 [name and describe item 2]
Line 4 [name and describe item 3]
Line 5 [name and describe item 4]
Line 6 [name and describe item 5]
Line 7 [name and describe item 6]
Line 8 [name and describe item 7]
Line 9 [name and describe item 8]

Sample:

Junk drawer

What's in the kitchen junk drawer
One bag of AA batteries from 1984
A Scotch tape dispenser that doesn't
Pieces of curly, dried out contact paper
Twisty ties that never will again
Stained Domino's Pizza menus
Expired coupons and old Acme receipts
Sticky pennies
Dusty tic tacs melted onto a paper clip

Dogs

Fluffy
Drooling
Licking tongue
Barking loud
Pulling leashes
Gobbling food
Curling up
Snoring all day long
Watch dog