

Using poetry in the German classroom

workbook

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Creative writing

Shape Poetry

Shape poetry or concrete poetry at a very basic level can be as simple as writing a word expressively.

dick dü
nn

How would you write the word 'schrecklich' (horrible) and why?

.....

.....

Now try to create your 'word-art' for 'schrecklich' in the box below.

Finally, think of some of your own words and look them up in a dictionary. Then carefully draw your GERMAN shape poems in the box below.

Possible words (English)	German translations

You can also make your own shape poem by writing a combination of words in a certain shape. To be successful at this task, ensure that the shape of the poem matches the words you have chosen and perhaps gives the reader a clue about the deeper meaning or overall theme of the poem.

Have a look at the examples below, made by 8 pupils:

wie süß! aber
 schmeckt
 der Dichtung
 und mit Harsdörffer Äppeln
 will die Queen uns verpäppeln
 schmort das Reichsobst
 im Preisrätsel-
 Pfand!

Which shape has this pupil chosen to present his poem in?.....

What have the chosen words in common?.....

What do you think this poem is about?.....



Which shape has this pupil chosen to present his poem in?.....

What have the chosen words in common?.....

What do you think this poem is about?.....

What do you notice if you read the poem from the beginning to the end? Do the words change slightly in meaning? If yes, how?.....

Now think of your own shapes, themes and words:

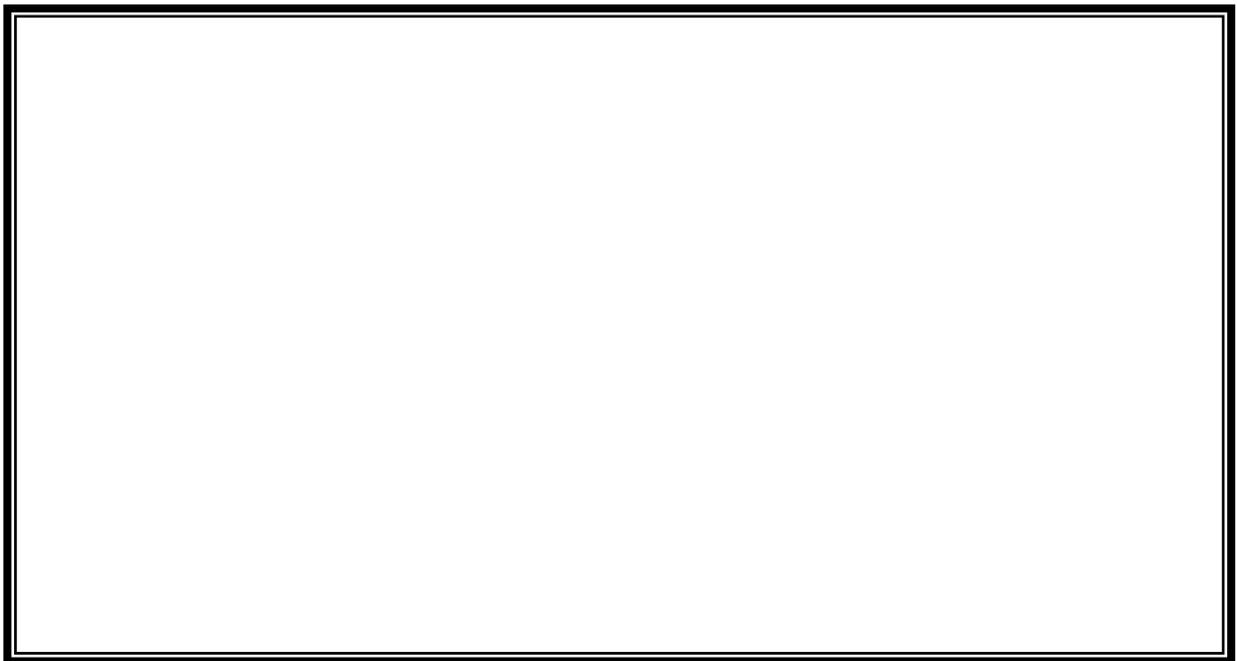
Theme:.....

Possible shapes:.....

Possible words:.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In the frame below, draw your shape poem in pencil and try to add the words you have chosen within the shapes. Try this first in pencil and make your neat version afterwards.



Or check out the below website, which will help you compose your concrete poem online. Note that you will need to type in your own words and drag them across. You can print your sample afterwards.

<http://www.wild-about-woods.org.uk/elearning/concretepoetry/>

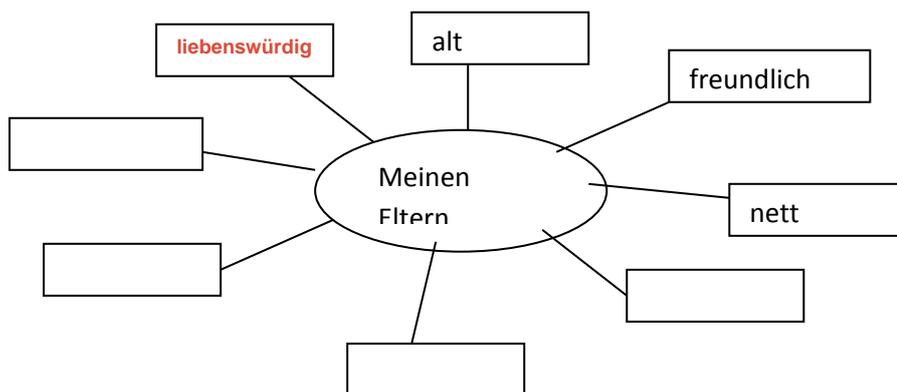
Comparison Poems

Comparisons also offer a good starting point when writing your own poem in a foreign language. If you think about it, many famous poets often use comparisons and metaphors in their writing. A metaphor is a comparison without 'as' or 'like'. A comparison will contain the word 'wie' in German.

wie= as/like

Try to think of a person you know and like. Can you think of some adjectives which would describe this person well?

Eg.

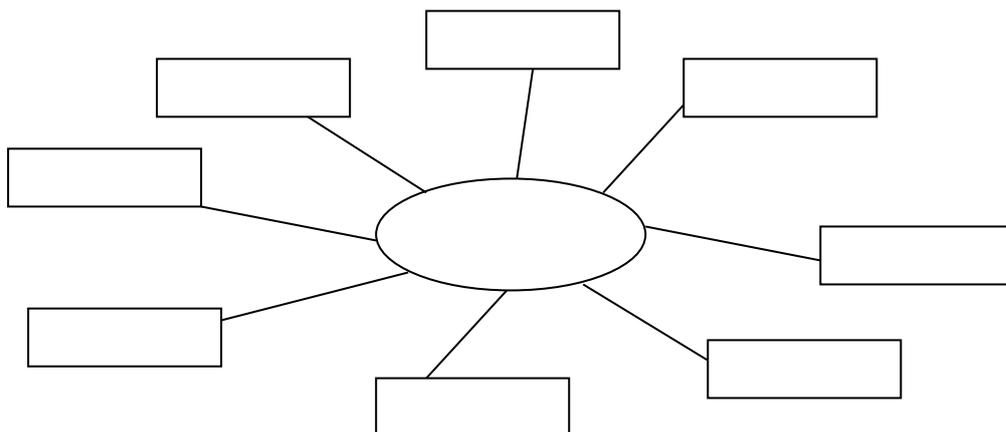


Now try to find creative comparisons for each adjective. Follow the example.

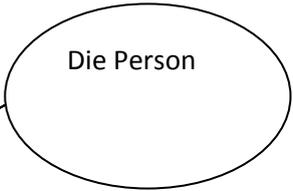
Schwartz.....wie die Nacacht.....nett wie.....

Lustig wiedumm wie

Your turn. Think of a person and find suitable adjectives:



Now try to find creative comparisons for each adjective



.....wie.....

.....wie.....

.....wie.....

.....wie.....

.....wie.....

.....wie.....

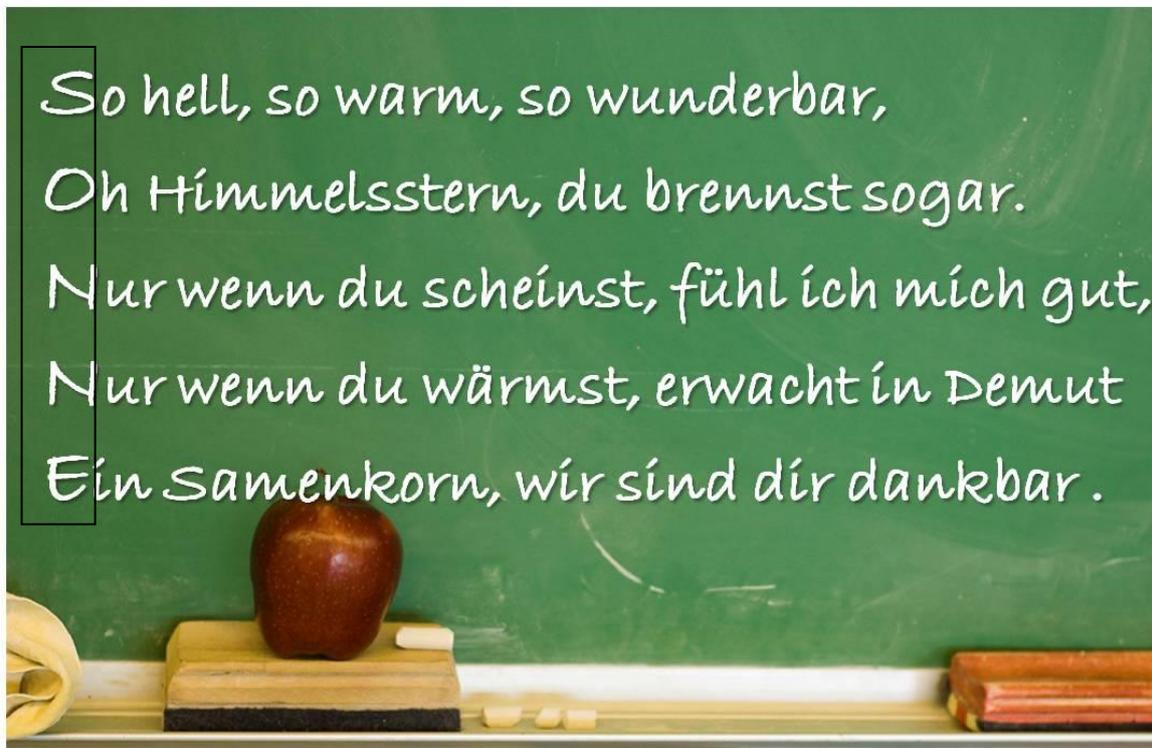
Finally, write the name of the person in the box above and you have a basic comparison poem. Of course, you can do the same thing for your pets, your home town, a teacher you remember (for positive or negative reasons) etc.

Acrostics – poems all in a line

A n acrostic poem
 C reates a challenge
 R andom words on a theme
 O r whole sentences that rhyme
 S elect your words carefully
 T o form a word from top to bottom
 I s the aim of this poetry style
 C hoose a word then go!

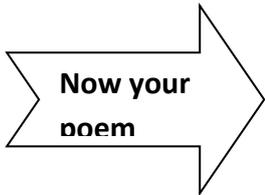
Acrostic

Schoko **L**ade
 D**I**amant
 H**E**rz
 B**L**umen
 G**E**dicht



The simplest form of acrostic is the one where each first letter of the line spells out, if read vertically, another word and you simply look up words based on that.

Can you write an acrostic based on your name/a favourite German word?



Useful websites

Rhyming

Rhyming in a different language is actually a lot more difficult than may appear at first sight, which is why the online rhyming dictionary can be useful.

http://www.alcor.com.au/german_rhyming_dictionary.asp or

http://www.gabrielditu.com/literature/dictionaries/german_rhyming_dictionary.asp

To be able to rhyme, you must pronounce things correctly, so don't forget to check the pronunciation of difficult words in a dictionary, you can practise on

www.voki.com or www.goanimate.com

Remember that the most common rhyme we use in poems is end rhyme (so we focus on the ending sounds of the words). Now try to find rhyming words through the use of the online dictionary.

Wordle: <http://www.wordle.net/> Use the website above to create your own visual artwork based on the poem.

Storybid: <http://storybird.com/> Use the above website to turn the poem into an artistic book.