Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Creating YOUR Concrete Poem!**

As a class, we have looked at different examples of **concrete poetry**. Using what you know about the elements of this type of poetry, and the conventions of free-verse poetry, you are now expected to create your own concrete poem individually **(competency 3).** Your poem needs to respond to this guiding prompt:

**What is your purpose?**

 Here is a **short definition** of concrete poetry, in case you need it:

Concrete poetry has a visual appearance that matches the subject matter of the poem. The words form shapes, which illustrate the poem’s subject as a picture, as well as through their literal meaning.

Here are some steps to follow when creating a concrete poem:

1. **Choose a subject:** Your poem needs to respond to the guiding question, “What is your purpose.” For example, if my purpose were to become an English teacher and share my love of reading, then that would be my inspiration for my poem.
2. **Write the poem:** In a concrete poem, there are no rules about rhyme or rhythm. You are writing a free-verse poem. The most important thing to remember is that you are creating a picture, and the words you choose should reflect that goal.
3. **Draw a line or simple pattern that you’d like your words to follow:** Use a pencil!
4. **Write the text of your poem along the lines:** Experiment with word arrangement. It may take several attempts to achieve an image that you are happy with.
5. **Erase the line:** Once you have a picture that you are satisfied with, remove the guideline. The pattern should be clear on its own.

**\* Remember!** Your poem needs to read from left to right (just like how you would read any piece of writing!).

Your concrete poem needs to respond to the guiding prompt, and needs to have a clear visual representation of the content of your poem (so, going back to my example of becoming an English teacher, maybe my poem would be visually represented in the shape of a book, or an apple!). Also, your concrete poem must include writing techniques (metaphors, symbols) and descriptive language (“show” don’t “tell”).

**\* Remember!** You are writing a free-verse poem. So don’t get too hung up on structuring your words (just go with the flow!).

You will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Elements of poetry**
2. **Structure and form**
3. **Overall impact and effect on reader**
4. **Grammar, Usages, Mechanics, and Spelling**

**Have fun and be creative!**