

A Concrete Story

What your students will learn	Narrative elements, poetic elements, concrete poetry, multimedia art
What your students will produce	A short narrative told through concrete poems
Materials	Examples of concrete narrative poems. Highly recommended: <i>Technically, It's not my Fault</i> by John Grandits. The following poems in the book make great mentor texts: "Skateboard," "What are you Thinking, Robert?," and "It's Not Fair."
What you will do	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students should read and examine examples of concrete poems that tell a story. <i>Technically, It's not my Fault</i> by John Grandits is a great mentor text. It can be read as a whole text or as individual poems.2. After reading the poems students should work together to answer the following questions: What happened in the poem? What was the story? What is the shape of the poem? Why did the poet choose this shape?3. After studying mentor texts, students should create a series of three or more concrete poems that work together to create a cohesive story. Students can create their own story, adapt a story they have read (class novel, independent reading book,) or adapt a personal narrative they have written for class. Students should complete the brainstorming sheet (included below) in order to help them plan for their poems.4. As an extension, students can make multimedia poems. Students can use real life items (like the pasta in "Stop Playing with your Food") or newspapers and magazines to create their poems. Students could photograph their creations or create them on paper.

A Concrete Story Brainstorming

You will be telling a short story through three connecting but different concrete poems. Use this brainstorming sheet to plan the narrative and poetic elements of your story.

Narrative

What story will your poems tell? Provide a plot summary here.

What narrative elements will you include? (Ex: characters, plot tension, suspense, dialogue, etc.) How will you include them?

How will you divide your story into three parts?

Poem 1:

Poem 2:

Poem 3:

Poem

What are some shapes you could use for your poems? Think about what happens in your story- are there any items that are important? Symbols you can represent?

How will the shapes you chose add to your story?

Choose your final three shapes here.

Poem 1:

Poem 2:

Poem 3: