

# Revision Bingo for Poetry

Choose three of the bingo boxes to help you revise your poem. You can choose any three as long as they line up horizontally, vertically, or diagonally!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Impressions</b></p> <p>Reread the first line or stanza of your poem. Add to it or punch it up!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action Hero</b></p> <p>Look at the words you use to describe the actions in your poem. Make them stronger!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In Your Feelings</b></p> <p>Find the lines where you describe a feeling. Use powerful adjectives!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 2)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Where Are You?</b></p> <p>Stretch your vocabulary to paint with more detail by adding powerful descriptions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 2-3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>As Sweet as Similes</b></p> <p>Find the lines in your poem where you describe a person, place, thing, feeling, or idea. Add a simile.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Metaphor is a Light</b></p> <p>Find the lines in your poem where you describe a person, place, thing, feeling, or idea. Add a metaphor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 4)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lines and Breaks</b></p> <p>Change the length of your lines to add emphasis or change the reader's speed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 4)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stanzas</b></p> <p>Group sections with similar images, ideas, or feelings together to divide your poem into stanzas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 4)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final Thoughts</b></p> <p>Change the last line of your poem to create a lasting impact on the reader.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see page 4)</p>

# Helpful Tips

Use the tips below to help you use Revision Bingo to revise your draft poem!

**First Impressions:** The first line of your poem is the first thing that a reader encounters — well, maybe after the title! This line should draw your reader in.

Think about the kind of poem you wrote. Do you want to thrust the reader into the middle of action? Do you want to amp up the drama? Do you want the first line to be soft and understated or loud and bombastic? Do you want the reader to feel like you are letting them in on a secret? There is no formula to creating the perfect opener to your poem, so here are some examples to help you along:

“I am sick of writing this poem” (from “[not an elegy for Mike Brown](#)” by Danez Smith)

“forget heaven & its promises of gold—” (from “[Mexican Heaven](#)” by Jose Olivarez)

“I can’t travel” (from “[Why Do Borders Exist?](#)” by V.G. from 826LA)

“Boom! Bang” (from “[If History Comes Back to Bite Us](#)” by Gael from 826CHI)

“I want what I cannot get” (from “[All I Want](#)” by Jabari from 826 Valencia)

Think about which of these lines draws you in. Which poem do you want to keep reading? Use that as inspiration to revise your own opening line or lines. As you revise your first line, ask yourself: Does it draw the reader in? Does it set the stage for the rest of your poem?

**Action Hero, In Your Feelings, Where Are You?:** Sometimes, the default words we use to describe are *boring* words. We might describe actions, feelings, and places using ordinary language. For example, you might say that someone was running “very fast”, or that someone was feeling “a little sad”. How can powerful words amp our descriptions to bring our readers into the worlds of our poems? Instead of “very fast,” try “he ran nimbly.” Instead of “a little sad,” try “she was downcast.”

Use the list of words on the next page as a start place to create more interesting descriptions in your poem. Use these to paint a clearer picture in your reader’s mind.

Not sure what the words mean? Consult a dictionary or a thesaurus! Those tools can also be a great source of inspiration for finding the “just right” words.

# Helpful Tips

Use the tips below to help you use Revision Bingo to revise your draft poem!

## Words to Consider

snake-like	brisk	ponderous	nimble	colossal	spine-tingling
towering	whimsical	dreary	hysterical	despondent	melancholic
paltry	microscopic	hardened	doughy	tender	indestructible
leisurely	steady	stagnant	supersonic	zippy	searing
balmy	frigid	glacial	numbing	tropical	blustery

**As Sweet as Similes:** Using figurative language in your poem can help you conjure more precise and more vivid images in the mind’s eye of your reader. To use a simile, you compare two things using the words “like” or “as.” The student poem below is brimming with similes (which are underlined for you). Use it to help inspire your own.

### Self-Portrait

By Girod, 826 New Orleans

My legs are smooth like clay.

Hair is silky like a Milky Way.

My smile is white like a cotton ball.

My hands are strong like trees.

My face is pinch-able like a peach.

My heart holds funny words.

I live in my house that has a lot of food.

I am Girod County!

# Helpful Tips

Use the tips below to help you use Revision Bingo to revise your draft poem!

**A Metaphor is A Light:** Use metaphors to amplify your images. A metaphor compares to things by saying that the first thing *is* the second thing. Need some examples? Look at the ones below:

“Professional Spanish [...]

Is a downpour when you  
Just spent your last twenty dollars on a wash and set”  
(from “[Professional Spanish Knocks on the Door](#)” by Elizabet Velazquez”

“[...] i am a ball of tense  
living, a tumbleweed with steel-toed  
boots  
(from “[a brief meditation on breath](#)” by Yesenia Montilla)

**Lines and Breaks:** The length of your lines give your poem a shape — and a rhythm, too. Where the lines are longer, the reader’s eye speeds up. Short lines create pauses, emphasize ideas, and slow the reader down. What sounds do you want your poem to make? Where do you want the reader to linger and where do you want them to move along? Play with where you break your lines moving words up and down the page. Read the poem out loud to see how it changes.

**Stanzas:** Stanzas give your poem a framework. Poems don’t *need* more than one stanza. However, if your poem contains a variety of ideas, images, and patterns you might want to explore how grouping similar lines together changes its reading. Try it!

**Final Thoughts:** Re-read the last line or stanza of your poem. Does it leave your reader thinking? Does it stir up an emotion? Does it provoke a question? Figure out what you want to leave your reader thinking and make it a reality!