

TO DO LIST

| Priority | Due Date | What | Who | In Progress | Done |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|------|
| Yes | When finished | Write a List Poem | For me | Imminent | |
| | | | | | |

The writing idea is to get you creating list poems. These are poems that take a single subject such as an object, event, person or abstract noun and present this through the use of repetition and as many interesting features about that chosen subject as can be discovered.

Writing the Poem

First stage: You obviously need to select the subject for your poem. You can choose a simple or more complex subject. An apple may not initially seem like an interesting choice, but there are many important associations to be made with it. In the example you have seen, much is made of its symbolism for good vs evil (the Adam and Eve references; its *blossom* and *bruise*; its *core of good*).

If choosing a person, try someone famous. This could be a real person or a character from a novel, for example, Jane from *Jane Eyre*. Here is an extract from a student's list poem on Jane:

Jane Eyre who was enduring
Jane Eyre who loved a man she could not have
Jane Eyre who suffered blows
Jane Eyre who resisted temptation
Jane Eyre who ate from the trough
Jane Eyre who split the money

You can choose an **abstract noun**, for example *fear*. The poet Ray Carver (who is referred to in the apple poem) wrote list poems and the following few lines from his poem *Fear* illustrate ways of writing about an abstract noun by using it as a **verb**:

Fear of seeing a police car pull into the drive
Fear of falling asleep at night
Fear of not falling asleep
Fear of the past rising up...

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Second stage: After choosing your subject, you should research its possible meanings and qualities. An internet search would be the easiest to discover as much as you can about it and any linked associations. You might surprise yourself!

Final stage: In writing up your list poem, its most distinguishing feature will be the use of repetition. In most writing, repetition is seen as a simple mistake or carelessness, but in a list poem this adds emphasis to the subject.

In writing out each individual line, try to make the construction interesting. Simple word choices can add energy to a line, for example, *The apple inside **its** pie* rather than *The apple inside **a** pie*. The former line gives the apple a power over the pie rather than simply being a part of it. Equally, a line like *The apple inside its roundness* says more than simply observing that it is oval in shape.

Mix the ordinary with the unusual. An apple is regularly served with pork, often as applesauce, but when you eat an apple itself you can see and taste its *inner snow!*