



Writing

First stage: You need to select words from the three columns on the **Start Lines** first page. You should select two adjectives, two nouns and one verb. For example you could have

- Adjectives: *delicate; edgeless*
- Verbs: *decipher*
- Nouns: *poets; teenagers*

Second stage: These selected words now need to be put into a sentence. Although there are a number of possibilities, you could have the following two lines:

- *The delicate poets decipher the edgeless teenager*
- *Her delicate teenager deciphers the puzzle of those edgeless poets*

Experiment with the possibilities, adding whatever words you want, until there are sentences/phrases that you feel you could use to start the line of a poem or a piece of prose.

Final stage: One way to write using a starting line composed in this way is to use a 'stream of consciousness' approach. This is where you start writing and then do not stop, including in your writing every idea that comes to mind. Use the starting line as your prompt and see where spontaneous ideas take you. The following poem was written using this technique:

Sharper Side

*The delicate poets
decipher the
edgeless teenager,
write smoother words
about her mystery,
unravelling and
unpacking and
understanding the
sharper sides she tried
to hide.*

You can never be sure where such writing will take you. This poem picked up on the idea of edges as being an important part of a teenager's personality/character. The poem itself was worked on and edited. Decisions were made about line breaks, for example putting the key words *decipher* and *edgeless* on new lines. It also plays around with the words *unravelling*, *unpacking* and *understanding*, producing the repetition of the prefix *un* and its differing use in the word *understanding*. Using the personal pronoun 'she' makes the teenager sound real. If you named her, listen to how powerfully this can work.