

Visual Poetry Write Up

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Specialized tools and materials used:	Experience level required:
2D graphics tools (Google Draw, Vectr.com, or similar)	Beginner
Laser Cutter	Beginner

Grade Level and Subject (of this example): 6th Grade English Language Arts

Topic/Content Standards (for this example): Determine themes of a text [\[RL.6.2\]](#), and cite evidence to support analysis [\[RL.6.1\]](#).



Summary of Project:

Students create a visual representation of a poem by designing a scene using craft materials and maker tools. They engrave lines from the poem onto tangible elements that illustrate the theme of the poem. These lines serve as textual evidence to support the student's analysis of the main ideas and themes of the poem.

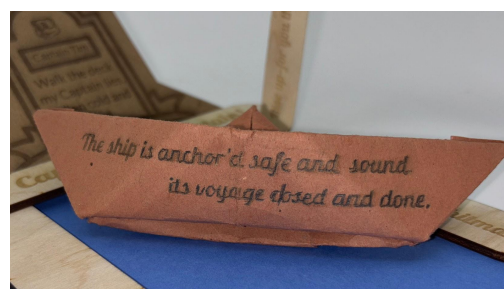
The project begins with students selecting a poem, analyzing its major themes and reflecting on how the text supports the themes. The next step is to choose significant lines of text and brainstorm how they can be represented by objects. After prototyping their ideas, they make a more finished model that includes lines of the poem engraved onto the objects with a laser cutter.

The sample poems used are Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay" and Walt Whitman's "O Captain, My Captain."



The first example shows a room with an autumn tree, a flower-shaped clock, and a window showing a sunset. Each item represents the theme of the poem: beauty in life only stays for a short time. For example, the lines “Her early leaf’s a flower, but only so an hour...” inscribed on the flower clock highlight the transient nature of life, as the flower represents vitality while the clock represents the passage of time.

The second example depicts a miniature shipyard, a paper origami boat, a popsicle stick flag pole, and a laser cut grave. The boat symbolizes safe passage, the flag pole signifies triumph and celebration, while the grave represents a contrasting tragedy—the death of the ship’s captain. These items work together along with their respective lines from the poem to support an overarching theme of grief during a period of victory.



These projects should take students 1 class to choose and analyze a poem, 1 class to brainstorm visual representations of lines and themes, and 2-3 days to prototype and complete the visual representation.

Suggested Resources

- For royalty-free images: The Noun Project (thenounproject.com)
- To convert images from JPG and PNG to SVG: PicSVG.com
- Graphic editors: Vectr.com, Canva.com

Possible Content Explorations [example MA Content Standards]

English Language Arts :

- Other works of prose, such as passages from novels, articles, and/or essays.

Social Studies :

- Analyzing historical texts, primary and secondary sources, to determine the author’s purpose and or intended audience.