

On the next two pages, you will find one of the eighteen vocabulary-inspired “Quick Poems” I use in my classroom. Some facts about these poems:

1. These poems are designed to be completed by a group of students. Finding context for new vocabulary is challenging for many students, and the support of a group is not only helpful but such group writing tasks allows for students to hear how other students think during the composing and revising process.
2. These poems were inspired by tier-2 vocabulary words that I love hearing my students use properly during a) whole class literature discussions, b) Socratic seminars, c) [reading workshop presentations](#), and d) writing response group time.
3. There are enough poems that I can set aside a small amount of time every two weeks to use one. I take less than ten minutes to explain the word’s meaning and show them the model poem, and then I set a timer. When the timer runs out, the writing experience is over and we move on. Some groups finish, but most are still mid-stanza when the timer runs out; all, however, have at least one stanza completed. If there’s time to share, we do. My students very much enjoy sharing their best stanzas, and the poems that can become “poems for two voices” are particularly fun to share.
4. I post a running list of the words at the front of the class. Right before a class discussion or a Socratic seminar, we quickly review the words, and I usually offer an extra credit prize from my prize bucket for a student who correctly and intelligently finds a way to incorporate the word into the discussion’s context.
5. If you’re also using my [weekly vocabulary routine materials](#), please understand that my students know these are words they cannot include as any of the four words they collect for me each week; the words they present for those collections must come from their reading, and they attempt to teach their classmates those words on days we present vocabulary. I don’t allow my students to choose words for their collections that I’ve already taught the whole class to use, but that’s just me. You can certainly adapt that idea.

I hope you enjoy this example poem. If you’re interested in purchasing all 18 of the poems, here is the link where you can do that: <http://corbettharrison.com/products.html#quickpoems>

--Corbett Harrison

Name: _____

Vocabulary Quick-Poem: HARBINGER and FORESHADOW

harbinger /'hərbənjər/ (*noun*): a person or thing that announces or signals another's approach
foreshadow / fôr'SHədō / (*verb*): be a warning or an indication of a future event

Sentence example 1: The single grasshopper turned out to be a harbinger of the coming plague to the crops.

Sentence example 2: When I saw him eating greasy food, I warned him that his pizza would foreshadow his indigestion.

Instructions: Use the following framework to create a quick-poem based on the words *harbinger* and *foreshadow*. If you wish to adapt or change the framework slightly, you can compose your poem on another piece of paper. Be sure to see my example poem on the back of this page. Try to create three quatrains before your group's time runs out.

_____ foreshadows _____,
_____ is the harbinger of _____,
The harbinger of _____ is the _____,
And _____ foreshadows _____.

O.K. Poem:	Good Poem:	A+ Poem:
No rhymes needed at all.	A	A
	B	B
	C	A
	B	B

_____ foreshadows _____,
_____ is the harbinger of _____,
The harbinger of _____ is the _____,
And _____ foreshadows _____.

O.K. Poem:	Good Poem:	A+ Poem:
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The harbinger of _____ is the _____,
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O.K. Poem:	Good Poem:	A+ Poem:
No rhymes needed at all.	A	A
	B	B
	C	A
	B	B

If you like any of your quatrains, you should revise and edit it and copy it neatly into your writer's notebook!

Name: _____ Teacher model of this poem

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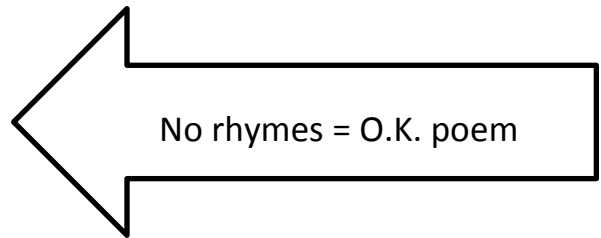
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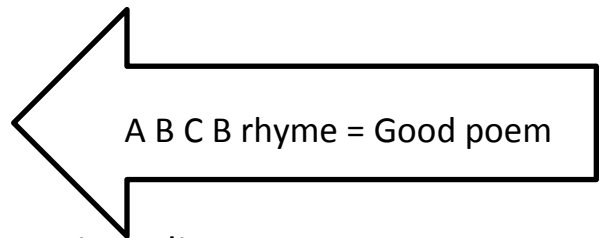
Harbingers Foreshadow

three quatrains by your teacher

That grasshopper foreshadows a plague,
The winter is the harbinger of snow,
The harbinger of indigestion is greasy pizza,
And the RolaidTM foreshadows relief.



Grasshoppers foreshadow a biblical plague,
While winter is the harbinger of bitter ice,
The harbinger of relief is RolaidTM, of course,
When the nausea was foreshadowed by a greasy pizza slice.



Grasshoppers foreshadow illness, disease,
While winter plays harbinger to snow,
The harbinger of stomach pain is pizza and cheese,
And RolaidTM foreshadows relief, you know.

