

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: JUXTAPOSE

**juxtapose** / 'jʌkstəˌpōz / (*verb*): to place two things side by side for comparison

Sentence example 1: When we juxtaposed the twins, we could see just one minor difference.

Sentence example 2: Your English teacher will often have you juxtapose two poems about the same topic.

**Instructions:** Use the following framework to create a quick-poem based on the word *juxtapose*. If you wish to adapt or change the framework slightly, you can compose your quick-poem on another piece of paper. Be sure to see my example poem on the back of this page. Try to create two stanzas before time runs out. Be prepared to share!

When you juxtapose \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rhyme last word with juxtapose.)

Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Observe \_\_\_\_\_

See \_\_\_\_\_

Expect \_\_\_\_\_

When you juxtapose \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rhyme last word with juxtapose.)

Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Observe \_\_\_\_\_

See \_\_\_\_\_

Expect \_\_\_\_\_

### Some words that rhyme with *juxtapose*:

(one syllable) beaus, bows, bros, chose, close, clothes, crows, does, doughs, doze, flows, froze, foes, glows, goes, grows, hoes, hose, joes, knows, Lowes, lows, nose, ohs, owes, pose, pros, roes, rose, rows, shows, slows, snows, sows, sews, stows, those, throes, throws, toes, toes, woes.

(two syllables) arose, bestows, compose, disclose, dispose, enclose, expose, foreclose, impose, oppose, outgrows, plainclothes, propose, repose, suppose, transpose.

(three syllables) decompose, interpose, predispose, presuppose.

(four syllables) overexpose, superimpose.

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

Name: Teacher model of this poem

## Vocabulary Quick-Poem: JUXTAPOSE

**juxtapose** / 'jʌkstəˌpōz / (*verb*): to place to things side by side for comparison

Sentence example 1: When we juxtaposed the twins, we could see just one minor difference.

Sentence example 2: Your English teacher will often have you juxtapose two poems about the same topic.

# Comparisons

a poem by your teacher

When you juxtapose **poetry** and **prose**.

Notice that both contain words that convey ideas,

Observe how the second uses paragraphs,

See how the first takes free form, often not even rhyming,

Expect to be reading lots of prose and poems.

When you juxtapose **a stagnant ditch** and **a river that flows**.

Notice that both contain water, but only drink from one,

Observe the algae and larvae of mosquitoes in the one where they grow,

See the rapids in the other, and its fish between stones,

Expect me to be sitting by one, not the other, on a hot July day.

Which of my stanzas do you think turned out better? I challenge you to write a stanza or two that is better than mine!