

A
GIRAFFE

I
S

S
O

T
A
L
L

A
N
D

HIS HEAD IS SO
FAR ABOVE HIS LEGS
HE PROBABLY CAN'T SEE

H	T	E	K
I	O	L	N
S	E	S	E
	S	E	S
A	O	B	A
D	R	E	N
O		L	D
R	A	O	
A	N	W	E
B	Y	H	L
L	T	I	B
E	H	S	O
	I		W
	N		S
	G		❖

—Maureen W. Armour

STOWAWAY

—Robert Carola

O, Christmas Tree!

A
ng
elr
edbl
uedud
drumyel
lowhook
tinselblue
popcornpopcorn
flickergreen
birdbluet**tinsel**
redgarlandredgar
redlocomotivebear
mousegreenredblue
tinselpuppygreenblue
popcornpopcornpopcornpopcorn
flickerredduck**tinsel**red
canbluekittenorangegreen
garlandredgarlandredgarland
tinselbluetrumpetbluedudblue
yellowelfSantagreent**tinsel**red
popcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcorn
bluepuppyMrs.Clausreddblue**tinsel**
Donneryellowblinkcandycandycaneorange
redgarlandredgarlandredgarlandredga
yellowgreenhook**tinsel**flickerredblue
cabooseredblueBlitzenPranceryyellowblue
popcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcorn
tinselredblinksledyelloworangedudRudolph
elfNativityballyyellowgreent**tinsel**candycane
greendudDrummerBoybluepuppywithslippergreen
redgarlandredgarlandredgarlandredgarlandredga
Dancerreddblue**tinsel**gnomecandycanegreencardinal
popcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcornpopcorn
tinselRonaldMcDonaldredflickeryellowbluet**tinsel**blue

ST
AND

Name _____ Date _____

Writing a Single-Word Concrete Poem

1 What can you do with the word **EXPLODE** to make it look more interesting on the page? As you work on your “explode” poem in the space below, consider changing the size of the letters and utilizing space and color.

2 Make a list of other words that might make an exciting single-word concrete poem. Try to think of dramatic things in nature, like *lightning*, or everyday things, like *electricity*. Any words that suggest action work well, such as *climb*, *rodeo*, *curdle*, *bridge*, *waterfall*.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

3 Take one of these words and turn it into a concrete poem on the back of this page.

2

Concrete Poems

Name _____ Date _____

Exploring a Shape Concrete Poem

1 Make a list of objects that have simple or distinctive shapes, like a baseball or an umbrella.

1. _____

4. _____

2. _____

5. _____

3. _____

6. _____

2 Pick the object that appeals to you the most and sketch that shape below.

3 What can you say about this shape? Can you think of specific qualities the object has? Write them here:

4 What are some things that it does or that are done with it? Write them here:

5 Think of a few things you associate with the object. For example, a baseball might make you think of a game you saw with a friend, the ball park, hot dogs, an ace pitcher. Write your ideas here:

Name _____ Date _____

Drafting Your Shape Concrete Poem

1 Reread the notes you've written on worksheet #2. Without thinking about it too much, quickly circle the words and ideas you like best. Read them aloud to yourself. It will probably sound like a poem in the making!

2 Next, with a pencil, lightly outline the object (make it as big as possible) on a separate piece of paper. This is the basic shape of your poem. Start writing words along the outline of the object. Think of words that describe the subject or are related to it. For example, if you are writing a poem about a rainstorm, you might use words like—*puddles, wet feet, downpour*—written at an angle to imitate driving rain.

3 Now that you have a rough draft of your shape poem, you're ready to refine it. Your concrete poem is almost like a painting, so you want to make sure that it catches the reader's eye. As you work on your revision, give some thought to:

⊙ **The size and style of the type**

Do you want to hand write your poem? Use a computer to set your words in tiny type or huge type? Use bold, italics, or a fancy font?

⊙ **The color and shape of the letters**

Would your poem stand out with colorful letters? With uniquely shaped letters? Try cutting letters out of magazines to make the words you want to include.

⊙ **The space in and around the shape**

Should your poem be centered in the page with a lot of "white space" around it? Should the shape be large or small?

4 Looking at your rough draft for reference, create another sketch of your shape poem, then do a final version on another sheet of paper.