

Name:

Date:

Free Verse Poem – Graphic Organizer
Topic: _____

<p>Close your eyes and imagine your topic. What do you see? Write down the images that are in your mind.</p>	<p>Close your eyes and picture your topic again, but this time focus on the sounds. What are they? What are they like?</p>
<p>Write three or more verbs that show the action or actions that go with your topic.</p>	<p>What questions do you have to ask about your topic or to your topic? Write your questions here.</p>
<p>Write three or more similes that go with your topic.</p>	<p>How do you feel about your topic? Can you find an interesting way to share them, such as with repetition or a little rhyme?</p>

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Free Verse Poem – Graphic Organizer – Model Based on “I Love the Look of Words” by Maya Angelou on pages 122 – 123 of Texas Treasures, grade 4
Topic: Words

<p>Close your eyes and imagine your topic. What do you see? Write down the images that are in your mind.</p> <p><i>Popcorn leaping out of a skillet</i> <i>Words leaping off the page</i></p> <p><i>Words stuck in my mind</i></p> <p><i>My love of books</i> <i>Thinking of new ideas</i></p>	<p>Close your eyes and picture your topic again, but this time focus on the sounds. What are they? What are they like?</p> <p><i>Snapping of the popcorn</i> <i>Teeth chomping on the popcorn</i></p>
<p>Write three or more verbs that show the action or actions that go with your topic.</p> <p><i>Popcorn leaps</i> <i>Snapping</i> <i>Rushing</i> <i>Sliding</i> <i>Gobbles</i> <i>Chomping</i> <i>Perfuming</i> <i>Popped</i></p>	<p>What questions do you have to ask about your topic or to your topic? Write your questions here.</p> <p>(The poet didn't use all these boxes – students don't have to use them all either!)</p>
<p>Write three or more similes that go with your topic.</p> <p><i>Words stay stuck in my mind like the sweet smell of butter on my fingers after I finish my popcorn.</i></p>	<p>How do you feel about your topic? Can you find an interesting way to share them, such as with repetition or a little rhyme?</p> <p><i>I love the book and the look of words</i></p> <p><i>I love the tracks of new thinking in my mind</i></p>

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Free Verse Poem – Graphic Organizer

Topic: Zoë (My cat)

<p>Close your eyes and imagine your topic. What do you see? Write down the images that are in your mind.</p> <p><i>White, brown, and black spots</i> <i>Humongous whiskers</i> <i>Pink paws, sharp claws</i></p>	<p>Close your eyes and picture your topic again, but this time focus on the sounds. What are they? What are they like?</p> <p><i>Rumbling purr</i> <i>Jingle of the bell around her neck</i> <i>Thumping as she runs up and down the stairs</i> <i>Scratching on the carpet</i> <i>Hungry mewing</i></p>
<p>Write three or more verbs that show the action or actions that go with your topic.</p> <p><i>Rolling over</i> <i>Stalking her toys</i> <i>Eyes glued on me</i> <i>Jumping on the couch or my lap</i></p>	<p>What questions do you have to ask about your topic or to your topic? Write your questions here.</p> <p><i>What are you thinking when you look at me?</i> <i>Are you happy being here in this house or would you rather be free chasing birds all day?</i></p>
<p>Write three or more similes that go with your topic.</p> <p><i>Stalking her toys like a hungry tiger stalking a gazelle.</i></p> <p><i>Eyes glued on me as if she was a mind reader about to reveal all my secret thoughts.</i></p> <p><i>White, brown, and black spots all jumbled together as if someone had spilled three pails of paint.</i></p>	<p>How do you feel about your topic? Can you find an interesting way to share them, such as with repetition or a little rhyme?</p> <p><i>I love her pink paws and her sharp claws.</i></p> <p><i>I love the rumbling purr of Zoë's happiness when she is on my lap.</i></p>

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Calico Cat
by Linda Checkley

Stalking her toys like a hungry tiger stalking a gazelle
I hear the jingle of Zoë's bell
as she creeps towards the catnip-1 filled mouse
Thump! She attacks and then
Thump! Thump! Thump!
She runs up and down the stairs.

She is a jumble of white, brown, and black spots
all bumping into each other
as if someone had spilled three cans of paint on her.

When I sit down to read
her eyes are glued on me
as if she was a mind reader
about to reveal all my secret thoughts

What are you thinking, Zoë, when you look at me?
are you happy all day in the house?
Would you rather be free chasing birds all day?
Zoë doesn't answer.
She rolls over and shows her white tummy
I know she is saying
"What are you waiting for?
Come pet me!"

I love her pink paws and even her sharp claws.
I love the rumbling purr of Zoë's happiness
when she is on my lap.