

# Found Poem Assignment

What is found poetry?

The Handbook of Poetic Forms published by the Teachers and Writers Collaborative regards a “found poem” as a piece of writing that was not intended as a poem, but is declared to *be* a poem by its “finder.” Poems can be “found” in everything – from newspaper articles, store signs, lists, scraps of conversation, and other everyday uses of language.



## Directions:

Read the article as a group. Underline words and phrases that stand out to you. Use your selections to create a Found Poem.

## Poem Requirements:

- At least ten lines.
- No words/phrases can be added, but words/phrases can be removed.
- Your poem should have a single focus and be meaningful to you.
- A title.

## Hints:

- Your does not need to be about the original topic.
- Each line does not need to be a complete sentence; experiment with ending lines in mid sentence and continuing on next line.
- Pay attention to how the poem looks on the page, the length of lines, how line are grouped, etc.
- Have a single idea in mind to help your poem come together.
- Try repeating lines or single words throughout poem.
- It is possible to create a poem without adding new words!

# Example of Found Poetry:

## Original article

### **Isabel Gathers Strength off East Coast of U.S.**

Associated Press

Sunday, September 14, 2003; Page A07

MIAMI, Sept. 13 -- Hurricane Isabel's sustained winds increased to 160 mph today as the Category 5 hurricane swirled ominously closer to the East Coast.

The hurricane had earlier been lowered to a Category 4 storm after its sustained winds fell to 150 mph. It was reclassified after a hurricane hunter plane flew into the eye to measure its intensity. A hurricane hits Category 5 when its winds reach 156 mph.

The slow-moving, powerful storm is still several days from land, and forecasters are unsure if it will strike the United States. However, computer models predict it will turn toward the Carolinas over the next five days.

"It's not definite, but things are looking more ominous than yesterday for the East Coast," National Hurricane Center meteorologist Eric Blake said.

At 5 p.m. EDT, Isabel was centered about 375 miles northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moving west-northwest at 12 mph. Forecasters expect it to continue that movement until Sunday afternoon.

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## Example Found Poem

"Things are Looking More Ominous Than Yesterday" by Stacy Murrell

Hurricane Isabel's sustained winds 160 mph today  
swirled ominously closer.

Isabel was reclassified

After a hurricane hunter plane flew into the eye To measure its intensity

Isabel was centered

375 miles northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico

moving west-northwest at 12 mph Slow moving,

Powerful Isabel

Swirled ominously closer.