

Writer's Idea Box: trimerics

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"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." – George Sand

Writing Warm-up: play [Exquisite Corpse](#) (poets.org explanation)

I have adapted the Exquisite Corpse in this way:

Create a list of prompts like this:

- Name an animal
- Write a verb ending in "ing" (ex: jumping, playing, honking, crawling)
- Write a prepositional phrase of place (ex: over the mountain, under the porch, on the piano, through the window)
- Write a question (ex: How can you do that? Where have you been?)
- Write a command (ex: Go away! Do it now!)
- Write a body part
- Write a simile (ex: like a swan)
- Write an action phrase (ex: is carrying water, will fall apart)

Have each writer in a small group (circle) write each component of the exercise on the paper they have at hand as you call them out then fold the paper like a paper fan so that the next writer cannot see the word(s) written by the first writer. Each writer then passes the sheet upon which they have just written to their left. Each writer in turn does the same. When all prompts have been given, pass the sheet back to its original writer. Then take turns reading the surrealistic poems aloud. Here is one example of a poem from the prompts above:

giraffe
honking
under the porch
what are you doing there?
get out of there. now!
your long neck
like a skinny twig
will surely get stuck in the slats!

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Writing Sample: read the writing sample on page three and examine the form's pattern.

- Taking Flight, author unknown (attached)

Writing Exercise

Think of a relationship you have or have had in the past with a person or an animal. Using the trimeric form (attached), try exploring the relationship and its qualities the way the author does in "Taking Flight." You may choose to begin with a question. You also may want to think about your first meeting with the person or animal as a beginning. For example, if I were to write about my pet Chihuahua, I might begin like this:

when i first saw her face
white star on her forehead
her big brown eyes
looking back at me

white star on her forehead
she stole my heart
i think she knew

her big brown eyes
every day since then
her sharp yap

looking back at me
i think she knew she had to go
before i did

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If you wish to continue writing, you would just continue with four new lines and follow the form in the same way. Good luck and have fun!

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Trimerics:poetry form

Line 1
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4

Line 2
New line
New line

Line 3
New line
New line

Line 4
New line
New line

Taking Flight

was there a promise
when they met
she might remember
he wouldn't

when they met
a golden eagle soard
above their hearts

she might remember
that she closed her eyes
and wished

he wouldn't
fly away
like the eagle

~author unknown