



Found Poetry

On this handout, you will find 60 lines of love poetry. The lines in boldface are from Shakespeare's plays and poems; the other lines are from hip hop songs.

In your groups, cut out all of the lines and place the strips of paper into the paper bag. Mix the contents of the bag well. Then, randomly draw ten lines of poetry out of the bag. Glue them to a piece of paper in the order in which you drew them out of the bag. Have a volunteer from your group read or rap your "found poem" to the class. Now try this activity again, drawing new lines from the bag. This time, arrange the lines of the poem in any order you like.

Shakespeare

Love is merely a madness

The course of true love never did run smooth

You, in my respect, are all the world

My heart unto yours is knit

O, how I love thee! How I dote on thee!

I do love nothing in the world so well as you

I give away myself for you



Speak low if you speak love

I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest

My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep

Is love a tender thing?

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

I ne'er saw true beauty till this night

They do not love that do not show their love

Love hath chased sleep from my enthralled eyes

Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift

Love is like a child that longs for every thing that he can come by

If music be the food of love, play on

For such as I am all true lovers are



Love sought is good, but given unsought is better

The sight of lovers feedeth those in love

So holy and so perfect is my love

Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love

Love is a spirit of all compact of fire

Touch but my lips with those fair lips of thine

Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds

My love shall in my verse ever live young

Then may I dare to boast how I do love thee

**For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings that then I scorn to change
my state with kings**

I, beyond all limit of what else i' th' world, do love, prize, honor you



Hip Hop

Walk this earth for her, glory, I'm grateful

To be in her presence I try to stay faithful

From lack of love many hide, some run

Love can free us, to it some of us react as a slave

Serenade her, without speaking a word

Because of you I'm stronger, I'm afraid no longer

I feel so alive in me, you have liberated me

I just want you to know your whole being is beautiful

I want to build a tribe with you, protect and provide for you

These lines were taken from songs by Common, Lauryn Hill, Mos Def, Outkast, Talib Kweli, and Tupac Shakur.



Loving you is like a battle and we both end up with scars

I chose a road of passion and pain, sacrificed too much and waited in vain

Loving you is a like a song I replay every three minutes and 30 seconds of every day

Every beautiful melody of devotion every night

Is this the pain of too much tenderness?

I hope that you're the one – if not, you are the prototype

We met today for a reason

If what they say is “Nothing is forever,” then what makes love the exception?

You're all I've ever wanted, but I'm terrified of you

This the first time that I've ever considered wedding rings

See I use to be a player and all of this is new to me

These lines were taken from songs by Common, Lauryn Hill, Mos Def, Outkast, Talib Kweli, and Tupac Shakur.



And it feels so beautiful, put it in a rhyme because it feels so musical

You make my heart skip the beat that I drum to

I want to be the one you run to, when pain confronts you

You're everything, sometimes I get nervous when I'm in front you

Send your soul through your lips to my heart

Sweet music will start, I want you to be the music of my art

Go through the seasons of love and never change with the weather

The language of love cannot be translated

Love is blind, you just see bright light

You will always be in my heart with unconditional love

These lines were taken from songs by Common, Lauryn Hill, Mos Def, Outkast, Talib Kweli, and Tupac Shakur.