

Here is a poem I like:

## Words I Like by Steve Turner

Billowing, seaboard, ocean, pearl,  
Estuary, shale, maroon;  
Harlequin, runnel, ripple, swirl,  
Labyrinth, lash, lagoon.

Razorbill, cygnet, songbird, kite,  
Cormorant, crag, ravine;  
Flickering, sun-burst, dappled, flight,  
Fiery, dew, serene.

Asteroid, nova, star-dust, moon,  
Galaxy, zone, eclipse;  
Dynamo, pulsar, planet, rune,  
Satellite, spangle, lips.

Boulevard, freeway, turnpike, cruise,  
Chevrolet, fin, pavanne;  
Tomahawk, firecrest, fantail, fuse,  
Saskatchewan, Sioux, Cheyenne.

Tenderness, sweetheart, cherish, miss,  
Paramour, fond, befriend;  
Family, love, the end.

Steve Turner is poet for children and adults and he likes to play with words. His poems usually rhyme and have strong line and verse patterns. This is poem that is great to read aloud and the sounds in the words are great to **chew and taste!**

Activity 1: Read the poem aloud. Enjoy saying the words and make all the syllables sound.

Activity 2: Are there words you don't know?

Have a look at the copy of the poem below, with the notes now and see if that helps

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Verse 1 are words you'd find at the sea shore to do with movements of water

Estuary – where the river meets the sea

Labyrinth - a maze

Lagoon - a large pool of still water

Harlequin - a type of clown or made of different colours

Verse 2 is about types of birds and where they roost

Serene – calm

Verse 3 are things to do with space, stars and planets

Spangle- sparkle

## Verse 4

Boulevard is a broad street in a city

Freeway is an American motorway

Turnpike was a stretch of of a road kept in good repair in the days when roads were in a bad state and full of pot holes, you had to pay to go on this bit.

Chevrolet (pronounced shevroley) is a car pavanne is a dance

Tomahawk firecrest fantail fuse I think are words to do with planes

Saskatchewan Sioux Cheyenne (pronounced Shy-ann) are native American tribal names

The last verse is group of words to describe feelings of love paramour is another word for sweetheart

## Activity 3

Look at the verse and rhyme structure.

Count the syllables in each line

Billowing, seaboard, ocean, pearl, 8 Line rhyme A

Estuary, shale, maroon; 6 Line rhyme B

Harlequin, runnel, ripple, swirl, 8 Line rhyme A

Labyrinth, lash, lagoon. 6 Line rhyme B

You can see there is a simple repeating pattern of alternate lines that rhyme and the same numbers of syllables in each line 8, then 6 then 8 then 6. There are 4 lines to a verse.

## Activity 4

**Either:** a. Choose which verse of Steve Turner's poem you like best and write a few sentences in your homework book to say why you like it. You could talk about the choice of words, the theme, the sounds, the rhythm and patterns. You could say if the sounds make you feel happy or sad or excited or calm.

**Or:**

b. You can have a go at writing your own verse. Follow the instructions below.

1. Choose some words you really like and collect them in a bubble in your homework book. (Words you could share with you grandma please!) Don't worry about grouping them yet. Just warm up with some of your favourites. Make sure you have some 3, 2 and 1 syllable words. Have a few that rhyme.

Here are mine: kerfuffle, sock, teak, wren, buttery, mirage, banana, attic, streak, bramble, footle, startle, static, jumble, smooth, iridescence, pom-pom, juggle, wok, sonata, ramble, overture, complicate, daffodil

2. Choose a subject you are interested in and find a group of words

Here are mine: Chickens: feathers, roost, chamois, Poland, broody, perch,

3. Repeat stage 2 with different subjects – some may work better than others

Here are mine:

roses, fragrance, Rambler, petals, vigorous, climbing

Fen, willow, reeds, lodes, wind, clouds, distance, lark, peat, dragonfly, wren, owls, bats

Penalty, corner, dribble, boot, wing, header, net, goalie, striker, goal, shot,

4. Have a go at collecting a set of random words you like and ordering them into the 8,6,8,6 pattern. It sounds best if you have a three syllable words at the start of each line. Play around with the word order but keep the rhymes in the right place.

The syllable pattern here works best but don't worry as long as it is 8,6,8,6 in this pattern:

Line 1 3,2,2,1

Line 2 3,1,2

Line 3 3,2,2,1

Line 4 3,1,2

Here's mine:

Kerfuffle, butter, footle, wok

Sonata, streak, ramble

Daffodil, mirage, juggle, sock

Overture, teak, bramble.

5. Activity 5: If you want a **big** challenge: try a themed verse if you can.  
Here is a collection of words I made about Wicken Fen, a place I like to visit.

Horizon, cloudy, bog-oak, lark  
Dragonfly, warbler, wren  
Pipestrelle, windpump, ponies, bark  
Harrier, damselfly, fen.

See how you get on. Count the syllables and think about word order