

Yr3/4 Literacy: Calligrams

For the next 2 weeks we are going to be looking at a type of poetry called a Calligram.

Part 1: What is a Calligram?

Here is an example. Can you try and work out what a Calligram might be just from looking at these pictures?



Watch these videos to see if you were right and to find out more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Zc0tBtotrM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMHjH6aowmY>

Activity 1: What are Calligrams?

- ❖ Calligrams are poems which create a shape.
- ❖ The shape of a calligram represents the topic of the poem.
- ❖ Calligrams are also known as shape poems or concrete poems.

Practise: Copy the words below, creating a shape which describes the word.

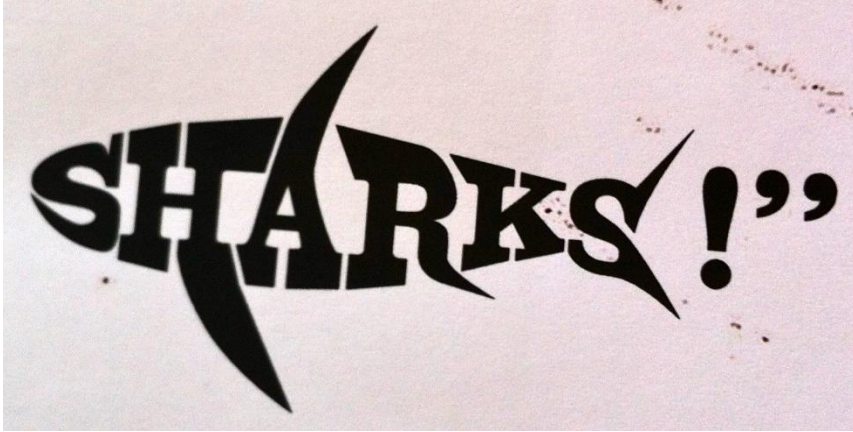
grow	
tall	
small	
bumpy	
falling	
smile	

Activity 2:

What animal are these poems about?

Can you spot all the letters?

How have the letters been used in the poem?



Activity 3: Bembo's Zoo

Watch this YouTube video. It has lots of different examples of Calligrams. Look at how the letters and words are used to create the shape of the animals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmEph902N8w>

It is important to realise that some letters have been used more than once!

Write a paragraph.

Which was your favourite? Why?

Activity 3: Your turn!

You are going to choose an animal and design your own calligram.

Remember:

- ❖ Your Calligram should look like the shape of your animal
- ❖ It should include the letters of your animal
- ❖ It can include the letters more than once!

Part 2: Writing our own Calligram poem

We are going to write our own animal Calligram poem, this time using **adjectives (describing words)** and **verbs (doing words)** to describe the animal.



Look at the **verbs** used to describe this animal and the sea.

Why have they been chosen?

Can you think of any more that you would add?

Activity 2: Plan our Calligram: Adjectives and Verbs

You are going to pick an animal and write down all the **adjectives** and **verbs** you can think of to describe it. Look at the example below then try one yourself.



Activity 3: Plan our Calligram: Facts

Read the Calligrams below. They don't just use adjectives and verbs, but they also use facts about the animal!



E

EMPEROR PENGUIN

by Liz Brownlee

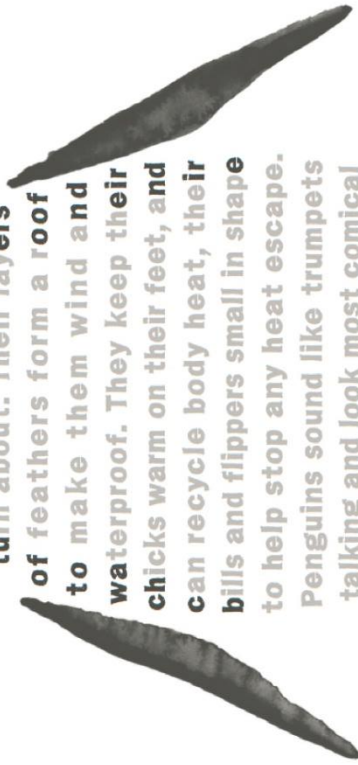
pinguins like to stand together keeping warm by sharing feather, some in the centre

hug, some out, all take their turn, and

turn about. Their layers of feathers form a roof to make them wind and waterproof. They keep their chicks warm on their feet, and can recycle body heat, their bills and flippers small in shape to help stop any heat escape.

Penguins sound like trumpets talking and look most comical when walking, but on their stomachs they can ski over the ice fields to the sea, and when they dive in, 'just like that', they

turn from acrobat. clown to



Our Calligram poem can also include facts about our animal.

Your task:

- ❖ Google fun facts about your animal and write down your favourite ones.
- ❖ Can you think of any similes to include? (the lion's mane is as orange as the sun)

Activity 4: Write our Calligram!

It's time to write our calligram! Use all the planning you have done so far to write your own Calligram poem.

Remember:

- ❖ Your Calligram should look like the shape of your animal
- ❖ It should include **adjectives**, **verbs** and **facts** describing your animal.

We would love to see your finished poems!!

If you have a camera, take a picture of your calligram and email it to admin@poolespark.islington.sch.uk

Here are some more examples for you:

