

Calligrams

A **calligram** is a [poem](#), phrase, or word in which the [typeface](#), [calligraphy](#) or [handwriting](#) is arranged in a way that creates a visual image. The image created by the words expresses visually what the word, or words, say. In a poem, it manifests visually the theme presented by the text of the poem.

Here are some examples of calligrams



What animal is it?



Which words can you read?



By Jessica

How many times has the author
written flamingo?



Blue Jacaranda



Could you write your own shape poem?

S-n-a-i-l S-p-e-e-d

Fast is fun!

Fast is fine!

BUT...

sometimes S-L-O-W is just divine:

sipping icy lemonade

ready on my kite watching
hanging from a maple tree

swimming back
stretching

backwards,
in willow's

fireside
sunsets from

ride.

A circular word cloud of phrases from 'The Wind in the Willows'. The phrases are arranged in a circle, with some in orange and others in grey. Starting from the top and moving clockwise, the phrases are: 'shade', 'floating free', 'searching for the perfect shell', 'waiting for the fish', 'lifting pinecones up to bite', 'to stars at galore', 'holding steady', 'up to smell', 'hanging from a maple tree', 'sipping icy lemonade', 'stretching back', 'swimming', 'sunsets from', 'backwards, in willow', 'ride.', 'hugging by the', 'dreaming of a turtle', 'gazing up at', and 'the shore'.

What building can you see?



Down
Down
Down
The
Stairs,
Falling
Falling
Falling,
Falling
Falling
Falling
Falling
Falling
Falling
Falling,
Tumbling
Tumbling
Tumbling,
In a
Fearful
Fall. I'm
Going to
Be okay
I think.
I wasn't
Hurt at all.

What animal could it be?



Which letters have fins?



What's happened to this word?

sn ap

Task 1

Now can you make your own calligrams for the words below? Think about the colours and shapes you could use

Hot, cold, falling, snow,
jump, sad, happy, leaf,
alligator, smile.

Task 2

Look the shape calligram poem on the next slide. Your task is to create your own.

It can be about anything you want.

Remember to create a shape and to use different colours and types of writing. Be creative! On the last slide there is the start of an example you can magpie if you wish.

— The Shape of a Poem —

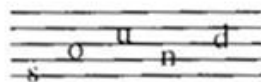
It could be **triangular**

It could look **round**

It could be a



It could look like a



It could be **oval**

It could be a

SQUARE

It could be an **OCTAGON**

Or a **circle** in the air

It could be a



With six **straight** sides

Or a gently curving pattern

Like a **rollercoaster** ride!

But although these shapes are very **close**

Not one of them's quite

For to me, the only shape


is when the poem's like a kite



Chris Ogden

Example

Football

You need a 

It can be played on a **field** or in a **hall**

The aim is to score lots of **GOAL**s

This will cause the crowd to make a lot of **Noise**

The players can be **girls** and **boys**