

Artful Poetry

Let's create a poem inspired by Charles Demuth's *In Vaudeville: Acrobatic Male Dancer with Top Hat*! Use your looking skills to come up with words that describe the artwork you see and the pictures and feelings it creates in your imagination. Then see how those words and ideas can be combined to shape your own artful poem.

Here's an example of a poem written by Natalia Villarán, Barnes educator:

Lights! Camera! Action!
I won't forget my top hat,
It's time to take the stage.

Materials:

Pencil or pen, writing paper, highlighter

Instructions:

Step 1: [Click here](#) to see Demuth's artwork.

Step 2: Look at the artwork closely, and write down words that describe what you see, such as objects, colors, shapes, and lines. When you're done, read the words aloud, paying attention to how they sound.

Step 3: Now write down words that describe how the artwork makes you feel. What thoughts come to mind? Read these words aloud and listen to their sounds.

Step 4: Highlight your favorite words, and then use them to create a three-sentence free verse poem.

Step 5: Read the poem aloud and listen to how it sounds. Then share the artwork and poem with a family member or friend.



Charles Demuth. *In Vaudeville: Acrobatic Male Dancer with Top Hat*, 1920