**List Poems Novel Study**

You can draw on your memories and experiences when you write poetry. Even the memories, experiences, reactions, emotions, and thoughts you had while reading a novel have the potential to become a poem. All you have to do is create a list and write them down.

**Procedure**

1. Twenty things that I will never forget about my novel. List the memories, experiences, reactions, emotions, and thought you had about the characters, events, conflicts, or themes, etc. in your book.
2. Use these phrases to come up with a list poem based on your reaction to the novel.
3. Try re-arranging the ideas until it describes the things you experienced while reading the novel.
4. Cut unnecessary words and create line breaks until the lines or words create a suitable rhythm.
5. Look at the more forceful words in the poem and decide if any could be replaced with a more precise, descriptive, or powerful word. If so, replace the word with something that describes the feelings you want to convey in the poem.

**Example:** The excerpt below is from The Credo by Robert Fulghum. This list poem written about the rules we had to follow when we were little.

All I really need to know

about how to live and what to do and how to be

I learned in kindergarten.

Wisdom is not a the top of the graduate-school mountain,

but there in the sand-pile at Sunday School.

These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don’t hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don’t take things that aren’t yours.

Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life—

learn some and think some

and draw and paint and sing and dance and play

and work every day some.

Think what a better world if would be if

we all—the whole world—

had cookies and milk about three o’clock every afternoon

and then lay down with our blankies for a nap.

Or if all governments had as a basic policy

to always put things back where they found them

and to clean up their own mess…