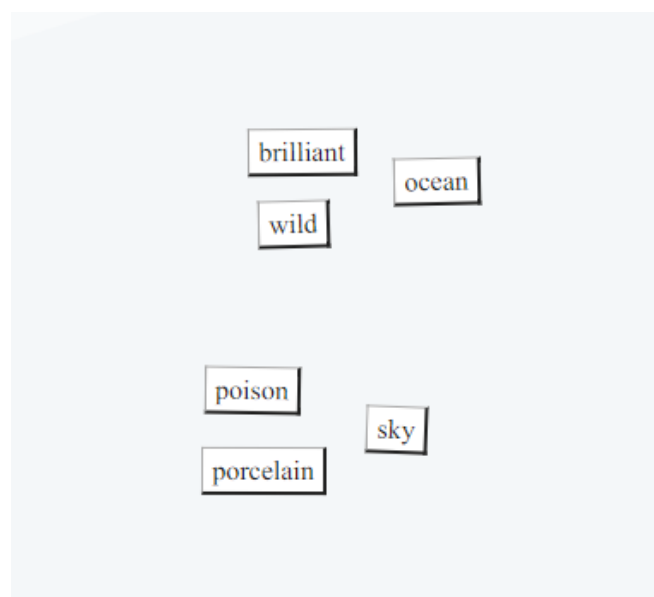


Magnetic poem draft: how might word choice affect meaning?



Use of enjambment. 'Broken' placed at the end of the line for emphasis.

Choice of word 'broken' in relation to 'breath' suggests illness or breathlessness, or even grief.

'Breath' placed on its own on a line to force the reader to linger or pause for emphasis; perhaps even to think about their own breath.

The idea of someone bringing of 'flowers' adds to the theme of illness or bereavement.

I wake with broken  
breath  
& you bring flowers  
to the ghost of this wild laugh  
haunting & vast

Personification suggests that laughter has gone or died, but it still lingers or haunts. Laughter dying could be symbolic of illness, death or sadness.

Suffix 'ing' found in magnetic poem kit and added to 'haunt' to create an adjective for descriptive purposes.

The use of the word 'wild' implies freedom or joy. Contrasts to 'broken breath' and the bringing of flowers. Emphasises the loss of the laugh.

The use of the word 'vast' implies something fathomless. Has a more evocative meaning than a word like 'big'.

The adverb 'not' is spaced out on its own to add emphasis; to contradict the idea that a life is decaying. Guides the reader towards focusing on the contradiction. Implies hope.

my fever has a slow secret rhythm  
a life decaying only not  
for here I dance  
and smile my belly warm & young

Break in stanza to indicate a move into a new focus or element of the poem. Breaks the ideas or 'story' up.

Enjambment used to place emphasis on the word at the end of the line, 'dance'. Dancing implies a different rhythm to the 'slow' fever and may symbolise hope.

Use of descriptive language ('slow', & 'secret') to create a sense of motion and time, and a lack of control by the person suffering. The fever behaves in a "secret" way and moves at its own pace.

Though 'full stops' are not available in Magnetic Poetry kits, this line is end-stopped: it has a complete idea or sentence on one line. Used for rhythmic effect and slows the reader down to encourage them to focus on a complete idea.

Decaying is an evocative word and creates powerful imagery. More effective than words like 'going' or 'leaving'.

Choice of the words 'belly', 'warm' and 'young' creates an image of youth and vitality, an indicator that perhaps the person will recover from whatever has caused them to have 'broken breath' after all.