# Sound

Readers of poetry can react to the choice of words in a poem in a number of ways. An important element is sound.

## Sound

Some words may seem more appropriate than others because they have a sound which seems to match the general mood or subject matter of the poem. For example, words with 'round' vowel sounds or 'soft' consonants (like the word 'moon') often seem better for creating sad, quiet or reflective moods. Words with ‘short' vowels or 'hard' consonants (like the word 'stock'), however, often seem better for creating happy, loud or active moods.

Activities

Sort these words into two lists: one for 'soft' sounds and one for 'hard' or harsh sounds. For this activity, try to ignore the meanings of the words. Compare your choices with others.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| frost | pond | down | tick | flame | cut |
| bitter | lake | owl | rat | fire | fall |
| harm | deep | skittle | born | Ice | mourn |