

# Letter Poems

The poem "I Got Carried Away" is a letter of apology. So what makes it a poem? The lovely language and also the structure—how the words are organized on the page to make them more meaningful. In this activity, you will study the language and structure of "I Got Carried Away" and then write a letter poem of your own.

**Directions:** Read the poem "I Got Carried Away" three times, and keep it next to you as you do this activity, in which you will follow the prompts below.

### THE LANGUAGE

The poet uses two "similes" in this poem. A simile is a way of comparing something to something else using the words "like" or "as." An example of a simile: Doing Storyworks activities is like a day at a fantastic amusement park.

1. Find the two similes in "I Got Carried Away" and write them below.

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2. The poet uses five verbs that end in "ing." Find those words and write them down:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What feeling do you get when you read those words all together?

\_\_\_\_\_

### THE STRUCTURE

In some ways, this poem is a "concrete" poem, where a poet actually places a few of the words on a page in a special way. Sometimes the words create a shape that gives them more meaning and impact.

4. Can you find these words in the poem?

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5. How do those words fit into a poem about dodgeball? (Hint: What shape do the words make?)

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### WRITE NOW!

Write your own poem of apology. It could be about anything—the soda you spilled at dinner, the sort of mean thing you said to your best friend. Use "I Got Carried Away" as a model.

Use at least two similes, and make part of your letter a concrete poem.