

**Ecphrastic poetry & the
development of professional
literacy in computing**

What is ecphrastic poetry?

- Ecphrastic poetry is the conversation between two pieces of art. The writer interprets a work of visual art and then creates a narrative in verse form that represents his or her reaction to that painting, photograph, sculpture or other artistic creation.

<http://www.firkinfiction.com/11.html>

Ecphrastic poetry and computing

- How do you write a computing-related poem in an ecphrastic manner?
- Complete the following steps:
 1. View a stimulus image and identify a computing-related concept it evokes.
 2. If required, write down the concept, definition, law, formula etc.
 3. Identify a suitable poetry type and write the poem.

What concept does this image evoke?



Trojan Horse



Computer Viruses



Need to backup computer data

Example Haiku poem

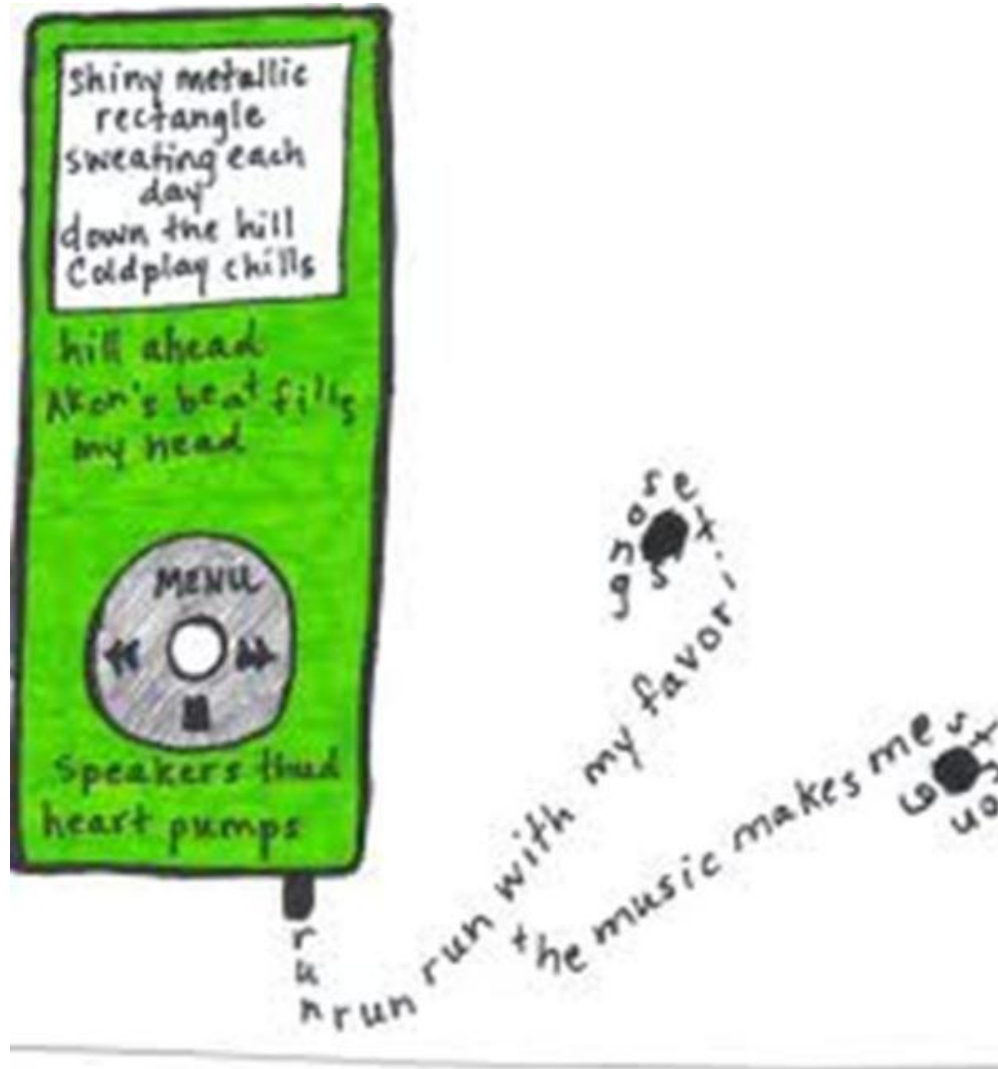
*Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.*

What concept does this image evoke?



**The increasing de-socialisation of
society through the utilisation of
technology**

Example Concrete poem



What concept does this image evoke?



Computer CHiPs

Example Acrostic poem

Cost of production is low

Hybrids combine chips with other devices

Integrated circuit is another name

Performance is high

What concept does this image evoke?



Computer technology is resource-intensive (power, ink etc.)

Example Limerick poem

**My printer will drive me to drink
I'm always refilling its ink
it empties my purse
to make matters worse
it's usually on the blink!**

What concept does this image evoke?



Computer Helpdesk Support

Example Free Verse poem

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
and the address of the memory makes your floppy disk
abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna
crash!

What concept does this image evoke?



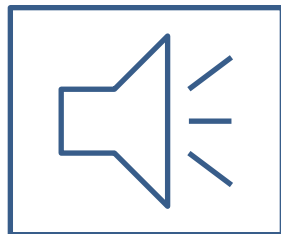
Computer programmers and their accountability

Example Cinquain poem

Garbage
in, garbage out,
computer programmers
patiently explain - that means "Don't
blame us."

What concept does this musical composition evoke?

Uptown Girl by the Billy Joel.



The Web (URLs)

Example re-worked song lyric

Uptown URL, you've been living in your virtual world
I'll bet you've never had an inline .FLI
I bet your webmaster never told you why
I'm gonna try for an ... Uptown URL

It's even readable by the outside world
As long as it can handle all the spam
But now you're lookin' for a Photoshop man
That's what I am!

Example re-worked song lyric

And when you notice the load, its uptime

And then you'll reboot, and see that your mine

You'll see that's its not so tough to serve out files all
linked from...

an Uptown URL

You know, it'll be linked to all over the world

We'll even code in all your fancy toys

Even including interactive voice

They'll have a choice!

Activity

Using the given stimulus material, create the following types of poetry:

- Free verse
- Acrostic
- Cinquain
- Haiku
- Limerick

STIMULUS IMAGE 1



STIMULUS IMAGE 2



STIMULUS IMAGE 3



STIMULUS IMAGE 4



STIMULUS IMAGE 5

