

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

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 geography

- How do you write a geography-related poem in an ecphrastic manner?
- Complete the following steps:
 1. View a stimulus image and identify a geography-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?



http://pull.imgfave.netdna-cdn.com/image_cache/1311020186941207.jpg

Countries of the world

Example Haiku poem

*Yugoslavia
Is no longer a country
But Yemen still is*

Example Acrostic poem

Islands of Sicily and Sardinia are in its territory

Towering over Naples is Mount Vesuvius

Austria, France, Switzerland and Slovenia are
its neighbours

Located in southern Europe

You can visit Rome, Florence and Venice

What concept does this image evoke?



Natural Disasters

Example Limerick poem

Hurricanes muss up your hair
Tornados scatter cookware
Floods chase you higher
Volcanos spit fire
Earthquakes don't really compare

What concept does this image evoke?



**The Greenhouse Effect causes the
polar caps to melt resulting in a
rise in the sea levels**

Example Free Verse poem

Everyday our earth gets warmer,
Soon it'll be like living in one big sauna.
Ice caps are melting and sea levels are beginning to rise,
So why won't people grow up and be wise?
Atmospheric gases are building up quickly,
All because we pollute so thickly.
We make money by burning fossil fuels and oil
But it's our world we're going to spoil!

Example Free Verse poem

There's been a 20% increase in the last century,
And a 40% increase in this one eventually.
I think this is unnaturally hurried
But most people aren't even worried!
Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane,
Wrecked crops and acid rain.
The list of disadvantages never ends
And if our earth survives, on us it depends

What concept does this image evoke?



Pollution

Example Cinquain poem

pollution

poisonous, lethal

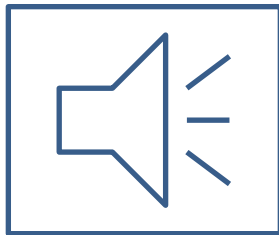
damage, destroy, demolish

no thought for life

contaminate

What concept does this musical composition evoke?

Jingle Bells



Latitude and longitude

Example re-worked song lyric

Latitude, latitude, lines go round and round.

Measuring north, measuring south, from the equator.

Latitude, latitude, lines go round and round.

Measuring north, measuring south, those lines of latitude.

Example re-worked song lyric

Longitude, longitude, lines go up and down.

Measuring east, measuring west, from the prime meridian.

Longitude, longitude, lines go up and down.

Measuring east, measuring west, those lines of longitude.

Activity

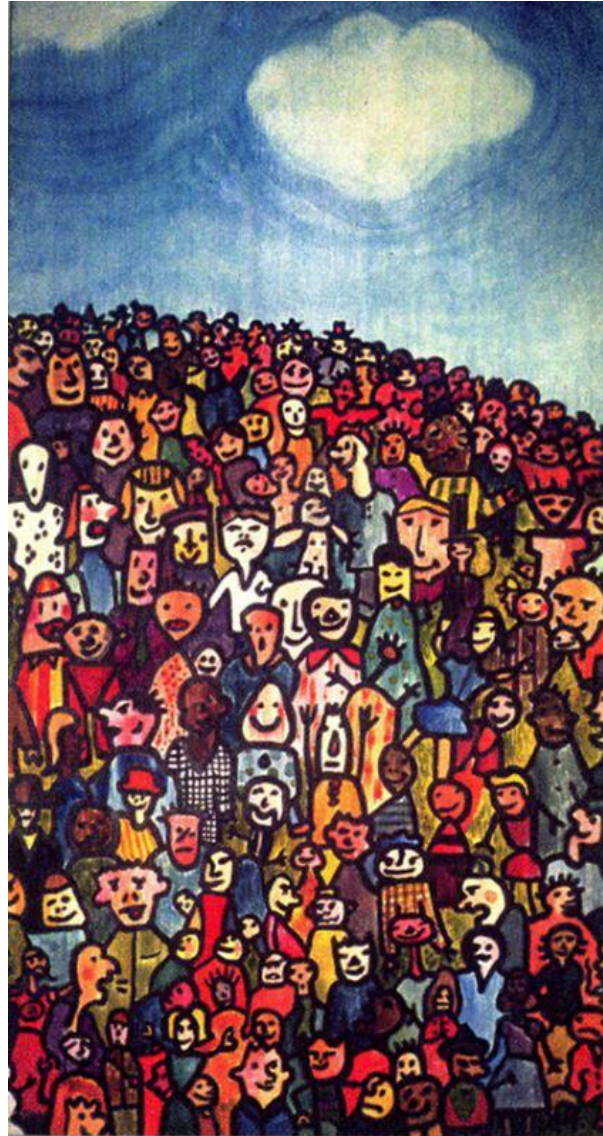
Using the given stimulus material, create the following types of poetry:

- Free verse
- Acrostic
- Cinquain
- Haiku
- Limerick

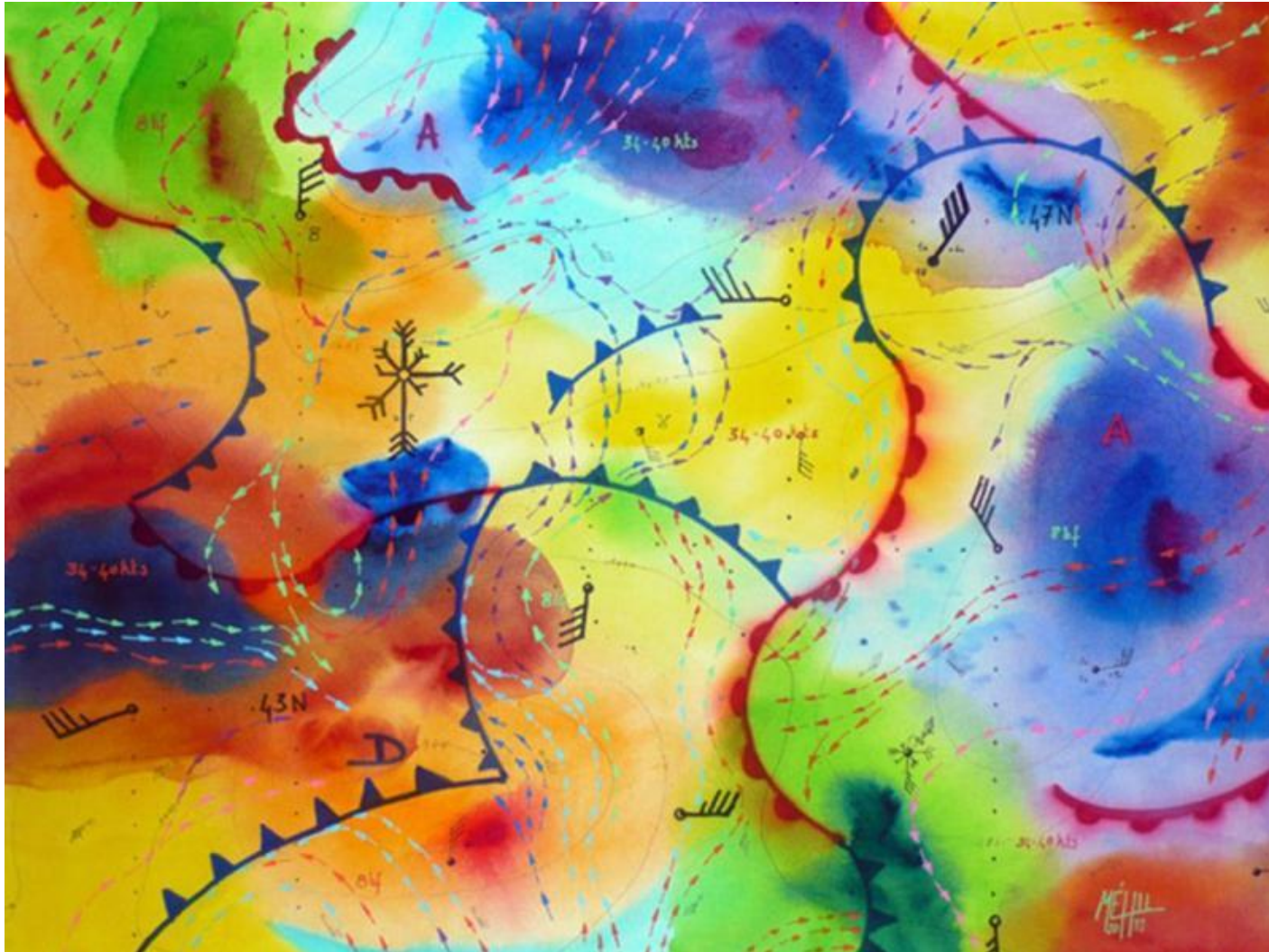
STIMULUS IMAGE 1



STIMULUS IMAGE 2



STIMULUS IMAGE 3



STIMULUS IMAGE 4



STIMULUS IMAGE 5

