



Ideas on how to get started writing poetry by Dom Loh

Activity 1: Your name within the topic

Pick a topic that you would like to write about. Write your name down vertically and collect your ideas. With these ideas you can start writing your poem or song.

For example: The topic is 'Quarantine' and the name is Gwynedd.

G going out with the dog is even better now

W waiting for friends to voice chat

Y You Never Walk Alone

N normal life

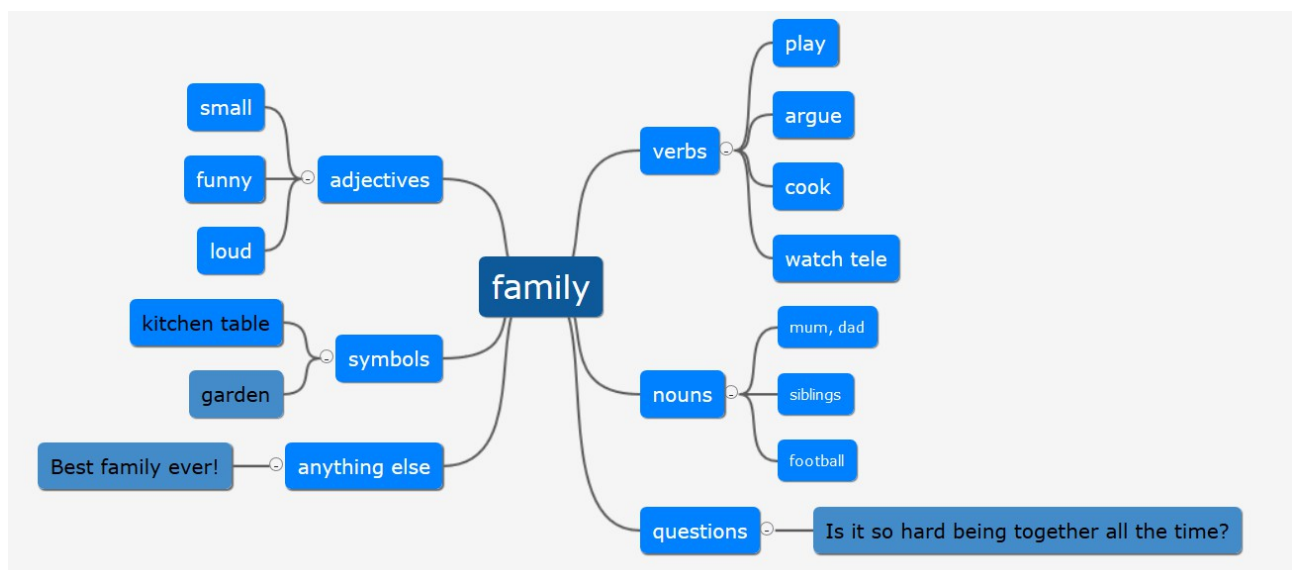
E elderly I have helped

D days dragging

D do something nice

Activity 2: A mind-map on your topic

Draw a mind-map with your central topic in the middle. Draw the following branches: adjectives, verbs, nouns, questions, symbols, whatever else comes your mind. Collect as many ideas as you can for each branch. Now you have a great selection for an eloquent poem.





Activity 3: Senses for writing

Often it is hard to make people feel what you feel when you write a song / poem. Try using sensory writing. Take notes on what you feel, hear, see, smell or taste at a specific moment you want to write about. This way you make sure to get the reader into your personal small moment.

feel: cold kitchen floor, warm cup in my hands

hear: birds in the garden

see: sunrise over the trees

smell: spring flowers

taste: the first warm cuppa of the day

Sat here on my kitchen chair, feet as cold as ice, hands clutched around a warm mug of tea

watching the birds chasing in the garden,

wondering why can't I be that free?

I notice the sun pouring light over dark tall trees

odours of spring flowers start to rise

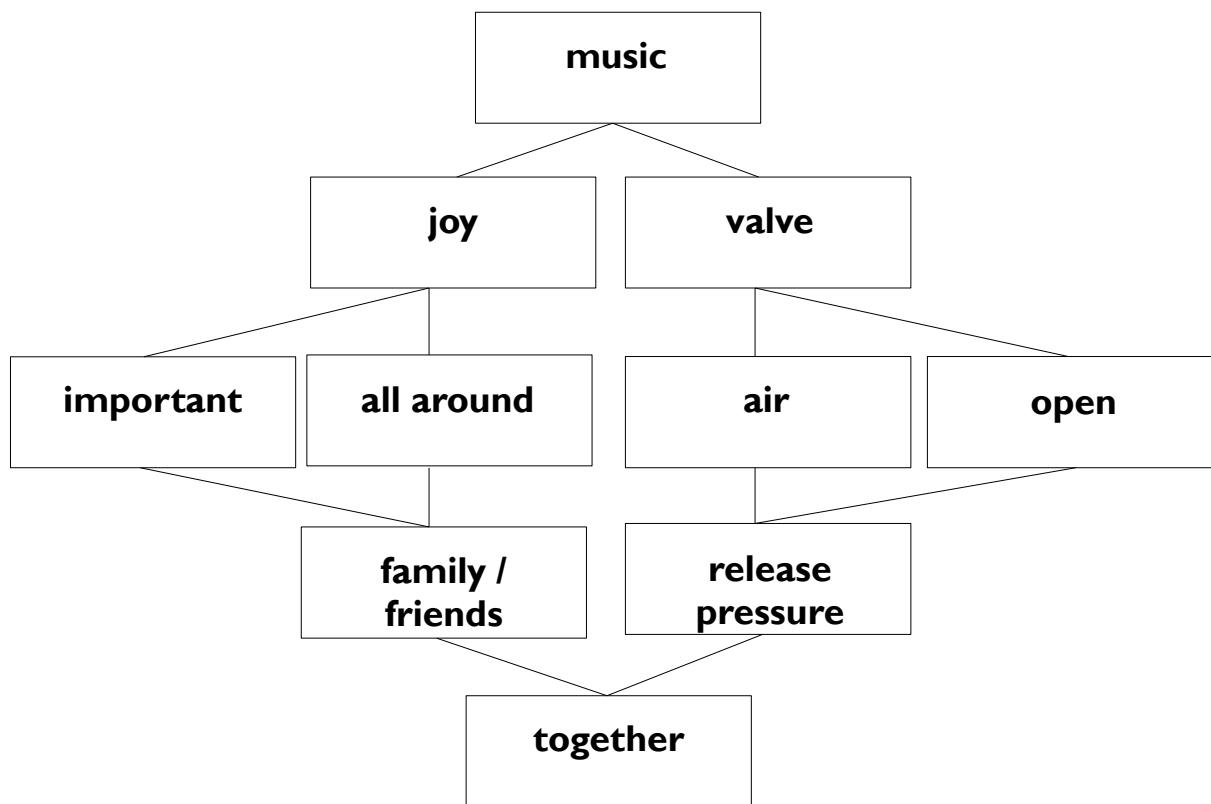
as I take the first sip of the day I see:

It's wonderful just to be!



Activity 4: From word to word

With this activity it is easy to connect ideas and a nice stream of thoughts. Thus making it easy to find things to write about. Draw a diagram as shown in the example below. The top box is your central idea and from there on play with what you associate (see lines connecting the various boxes).





Activity 5: A change of perspective

Take any picture or video clip you have seen on the news lately concerning current events. Imagine you are in this particular situation. Write down your thoughts and feelings. Use the ideas above.

You can take this activity even further if you choose very unusual perspectives. Have you heard about the Great Orme goats taking over the town of Llandudno? Why not write from their point of view in this situation?

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/gallery/2020/mar/31/mountain-goats-of-great-orme-hit-llandudno-in-pictures>

Activity 6: List poetry

This activity makes it easy to reflect on how things have changed.

Write a poem using the same phrase over and over again. Use:

"I used to be ... , but now I am ...".

Here's an example:

I used to be in a rush, but now I am relaxed and bound.

I used to not see the sun rise, but now I can watch it every morning.

I used to not call old friends, but now I have a laugh joking with them on the phone. I used to play on my smart-phone the entire day, but now we're sat in the kitchen playing Monopoly.