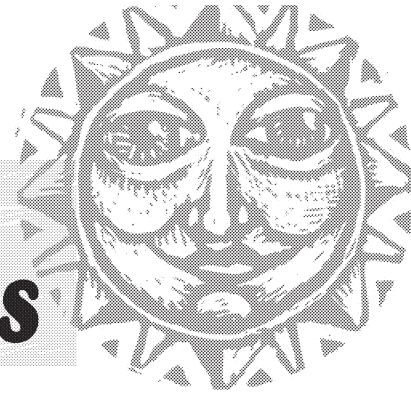


Daily *warm-ups*



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# POETRY

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**WALCH**  
PUBLISHER  
Portland, Maine

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321 Valley Street • P.O. Box 658  
Portland, Maine 04104-0658

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ISBN 0-8251-4520-1

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J. Weston Walch, Publisher

P.O. Box 658 • Portland, Maine 04104-0658

[www.walch.com](http://www.walch.com)

Printed in the United States of America



**The *Daily Warm-Ups series*** is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. The 180 quick activities—one for each day of the school year—review, practice, and teach poetry skills. These daily activities may be used at the very beginning of class to get students into learning mode, near the end of class to make good educational use of that transitional time, in the middle of class to shift gears between lessons—or whenever else you have minutes that now go unused. In addition to providing students with structure and focus, they are a natural path to other classroom activities involving writing and vocabulary skills. As students build their vocabularies and become more adept at word analysis, they will be better prepared for standardized tests, such as the PSAT and SAT.

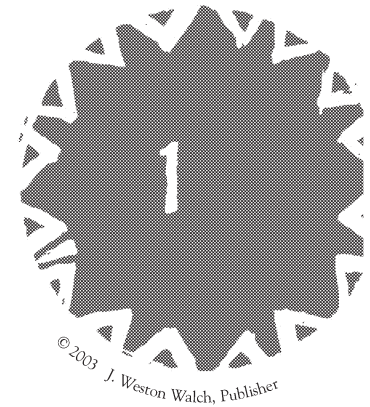
*Daily Warm-Ups* are easy-to-use reproducibles—simply photocopy the day’s activity and distribute it. Or make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. You may want to use the activities for extra credit points or as a check on the vocabulary development skills that are built and acquired over time.

However you choose to use them, *Daily Warm-Ups* are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular lesson plans. Make every minute of your class time count!

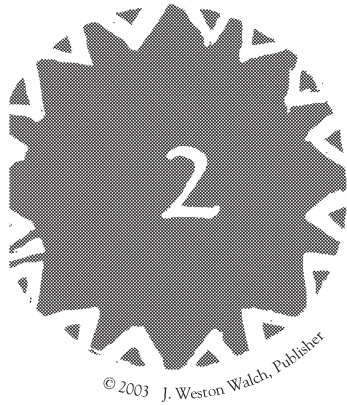


Freely write your answers to the following questions.

- How would you define the word poem?
- What kinds of words are in poems?
- What do poems sound like?
- How is a poem like a song?
- How can it be like a story?
- Have you ever written a poem?
- Would you like to?



**Think of a word** and write it in the middle of the page. Draw a circle around it. Now draw some spokes out of the circle. On each spoke, write a new word that the first word makes you think of. Next, circle each new word and draw some spokes out of it. What does each new word make you think of? Keep going with new words and spokes until the whole page is filled. Are all of the words you wrote connected in some way? Can you think of ways to connect the ones that are very different from each other?





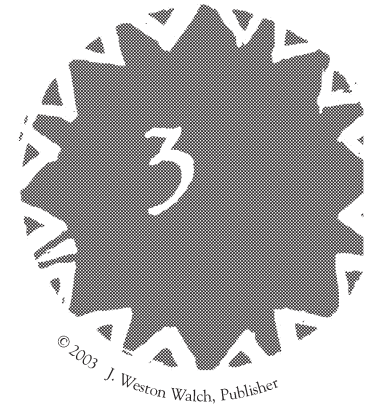
**William Shakespeare** writes a witch's spell in the form of a poem in his play *Macbeth*. The witches get together over their cauldron, or boiling pot, and call for ingredients:

Double, double, toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.  
Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake;  
Eye of newt and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,

Adder's fork and blind-worm's  
sting,  
Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,  
For a charm of pow'ful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Write a poem from the voice of a witch or wizard about weird and grotesque things that you need to cast a spell. You may want to say what the spell will do or whom it is for. You can rhyme it, as Shakespeare did, if you like. Here is an example:

To make the trees bow down to me  
I need items from the ends of the earth  
Heart of moth and head of fly  
A whole beetle, which first must die . . .



**Write a poem** that is a “want ad” looking for someone to take on a responsibility you are sick of having. Try to include why you no longer want the job, how the job will need to be done, and its benefits, if any. For example:

### **Wanted**

Someone to brush my teeth at night

Must have steady hand

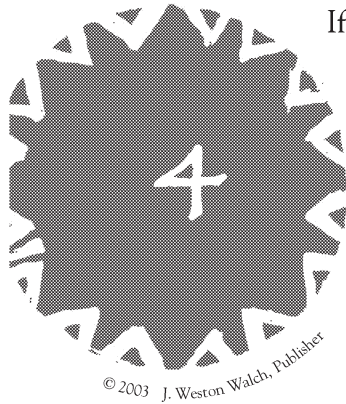
Good at squeezing toothpaste without getting it all over the sink

Must know when I need a new toothbrush

Must never get so tired, like I do,

that you just say “forget it” and climb into bed until Mom yells.

If you are good, the dentist will give you a sticker instead of a filling.

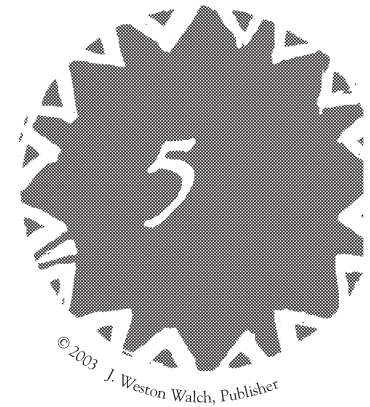




**An *acrostic*** is a poem in which the first letter of every line spells out a word when read going down. Usually, the poem is about the word, like this:

Can you imagine the speed?  
Avenue after avenue,  
Racing to get there first.

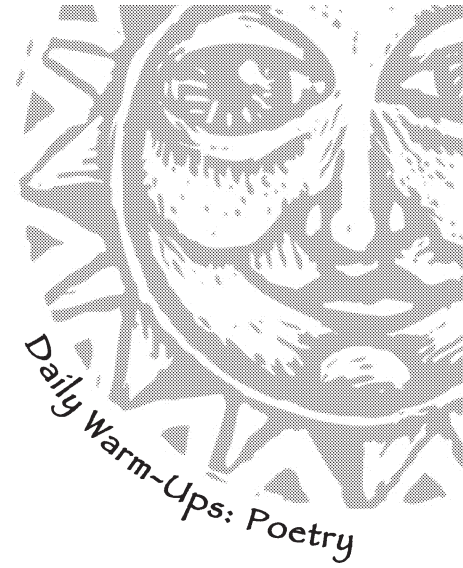
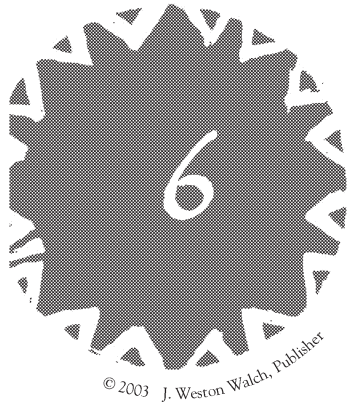
Write your name or favorite word going down the page. Now write an acrostic about you or about that word.



**You can also write** an acrostic with your name or a word going up the page:

So many lights  
Riding the night  
A shooting brightness  
Traces a pattern  
Sings to the sky

Write your name or favorite word going up the page. Write an acrostic about you or about the word.

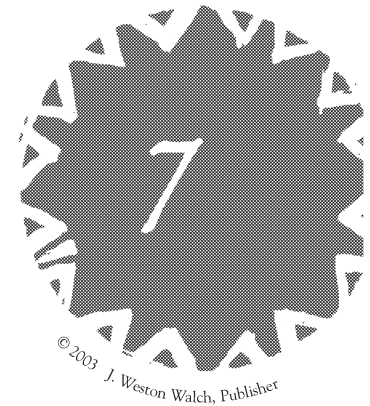




**Read the first stanza** of “Spring” by Gerard Manley Hopkins, aloud if possible:

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring—  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush’s eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

Hopkins’s language is very full and rich, filled with lots of expressive words and sounds that seem to tumble into each other. Choose a topic that seems very exciting and full of life to you and write a poem about it. Try to write in an overflowing kind of style, as Hopkins did.



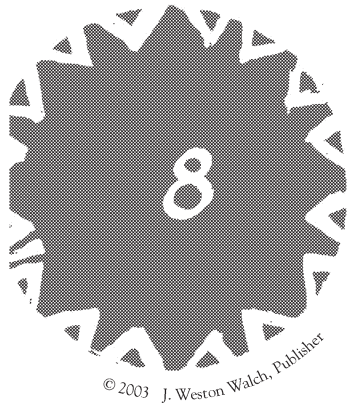
**Write the opposite** of each word below. They're words that don't usually have opposites, so be creative with your answers.

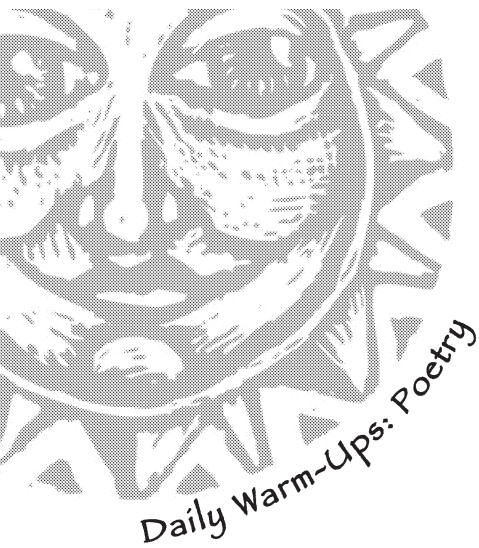
Singing

Crash

Writing

Wall

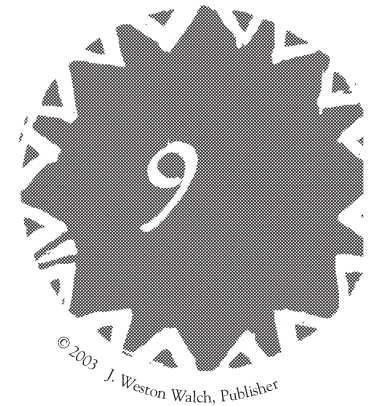




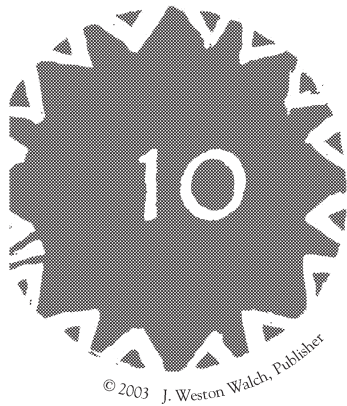
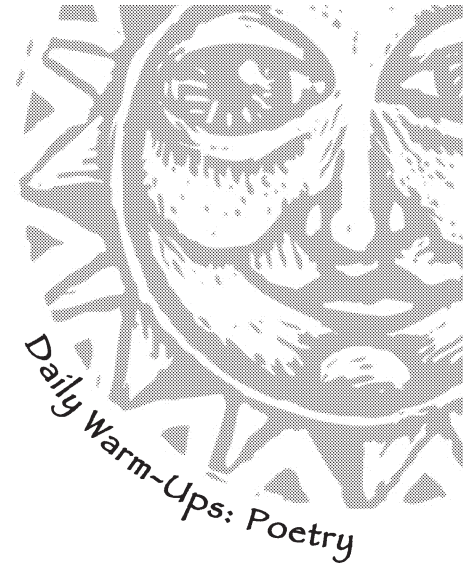
**Ben Jonson wrote** a poem called “Inviting a Friend to Supper.” Here is part of it:

Tonight, grave Sir, both my poor house and I  
Do equally desire your company:  
Not that we think us worthy such a guest . . .  
Yet shall you have, to rectify your palate,  
An olive, capers, or some better salad,  
Ushering the mutton; with a short-legged hen,  
If we can get her, full of eggs, and then  
Lemons, and wine for sauce . . .

Jonson doesn't feel worthy of his friend's company, but he invites him anyway and tries to entice him with delicious dishes. Think of someone famous you'd like to invite to your house, and write a poem asking him or her to a wonderful meal. You can make it sound like a fancy invitation, if you want: “Tonight, Queen Elizabeth, I desire your company . . . You shall eat pizza with me, and lemonade . . .” You can also write about what the conversation will be like and who else (if anyone) will be coming.



*Onomatopoeia* is a very long word for a pretty simple thing. It is when a word sounds like what it means. “Buzz” sounds like an insect flying by your ear; “meow” sounds like a cat asking for dinner. Thomas Nashe wrote a poem about spring in which he made up words to sound like bird calls: “jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!” Write some animal words that are onomatopoeic. Then see if you can write a whole line that sounds like it is coming from one animal; for example: “Roar! Grrrr! Wraeow!” for a lion.





**Every poem has** a *speaker*. The speaker is the person or animal or being that we imagine speaking the poem. It may be the writer of the poem, but it doesn't have to be. Could you write a poem from someone else's perspective, or as if it is being spoken by a made-up character?

Write a poem in which you are the speaker, talking about something that happened to you yesterday. Then write it again, from another perspective, with a different speaker. For example, if the first poem is about how you argued with a bus driver, the second poem's speaker might be the bus driver or another passenger on the bus.

