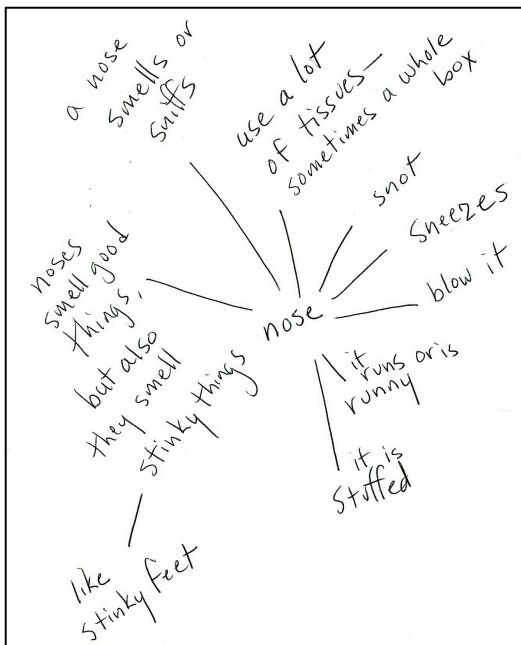


How To Write a Funny Poem

by Mary Amato

In *Edgar Allan's Official Crime Investigation Notebook*, the characters often write funny poems. Here's how I write my poems.

1. **Think of a subject that you find funny.** For example, a nose.
2. **Jot down all the things that pop into your brain when you think about this subject.** See web on left below.
3. **Write a rough draft of your poem.** See below right.
4. **Revise it by asking yourself these questions:**
 - A. **Is there a rhythm? If so, are there places where the rhythm could be improved by choosing a different way to say it?** I changed "Sometimes I'm runny/Sometimes I'm stuffed" to "Sometimes I run/Sometimes I'm stuffed" because the rhythm sounds better to me.
 - B. **Do you repeat any words? If so, could you choose a more interesting word instead of repeating it?** In my draft I used the word "stuffed" to describe the nose, but then I used the word "stuff" to describe things that the nose smells. This repetition was boring, so I changed it.
 - C. **Is there a part that is unclear or confusing? If so, rewrite it so it is more clear.** The word "blow" can also mean "hit", so I decided to clarify that by focusing on the number of tissues rather than the blowing.
 - D. **Can you substitute interesting words for boring ones?** "I help you smell" was boring, so I changed it to "I deliver all smells"
 - E. **If you want to use rhyme, are there any places where it could fit?** As soon as I wrote "feet," I thought of the word "sweet," so I went back and changed "good" to "sweet" to make use of the rhyme.



What am I ?
Sometimes I'm runny
Sometimes I'm stuffy stuffed
Sometimes one blow is not enough
I help you smell stuff things
from bad to good sweet
Please don't make me
Smell yucky feet.

First draft →

What am I ?
Sometimes I run.
Sometimes I'm stuffed
Sometimes one tissue
Is not enough.
I deliver all smells
from sour to sweet
Just don't ask me
To smell your feet.

Revision ↓