**Reverse poem**

**How to Write a Reverse Poem by Michael Stratford, Demand Media**

A reverse poem is like a topsy-turvy picture, a frowning face upended to reveal a smiling one. A line, word or idea complements the line, word or idea that follows; read in reverse, it contradicts it with an opposing message. The easiest reverse poetry to attempt is that in which every line of poetry both complements and reverses the meaning of the lines immediately before and immediately after.

There are several methods of writing reverse poetry, but the easiest is to write the poem first as a text. Begin with an idea about which you feel passionate, such as "I love my boyfriend." Continue with reasons why you feel passionate about the topic: "He is so good to me," "He will always be faithful," "I love the gifts he gives." List no more than seven reasons; you don't want to overwhelm yourself. Call these ideas Set One.

**Incomplete Sentences Are the Connectors**

The next step is to write a set of sentences, no more than ten, that are incomplete clauses. Call these Set Two; each clause ends with the word "that" as a verb complement or the beginning to a noun clause. Make half of the statements affirmative and half of them negative: "I feel that" and "I do not feel that," "people say that" and "people never say that" and so on. Now you are ready to connect the first set of ideas to the second set.

**Interweave Ideas and Connections**

Write a poem in which the lines from Set One connect with Set Two. Interweave the ideas with the positive and negative "that" statements to create single sentences that can be read up and down. It will take several tries, with much discarding and tweaking, but your ultimate goal is to create a poem that reads optimistically in one direction, pessimistically in another. Example: "I believe that/he loves me/no one believes that/he is faithful/He tells me that/he is exclusive with me/he never tells me that" and so on.

**Shakespearean Reversed Poetry**

A classic example of this kind of poetry is in Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," Act Five, where a chorus, telling the audience what a great play he is presenting, actually gives the reverse opinion. Study the classics and other poets, keep on creating and tweaking and eventually you will be writing sharp, funny and incisive reverse poetry.

Source: <http://classroom.synonym.com/write-reverse-poem-3713.html>

**Refugees by brian bilston**

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

**My White Lace Tablecloth by Annalise a.k.a. Audrey Haick**

I washed my white lace tablecloth and hung it out to dry

The bleach did the best it could-it was worth the try

'Though no one else can see, the stain still remains

As old as time itself

Stubborn as mildew rot

One false step, one careless word forever etched in time

Travels the universe, endlessly

In search of a place to rest

What would I not give to reverse that step

To retrieve that hateful word

Tread lightly in your daily walk, o'er hills and valleys in between

Plot well your steps and weigh your words

So you'll have nothing to regret, like the

Unkind words carved deeply upon your heart

I wash my white lace tablecloth again, again and again!

~\*~

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**Lost Generation by Jonathan Reed…**

**{**[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42E2fAWM6rA}**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42E2fAWM6rA%7d)

 I am part of a lost generation  
and I refuse to believe that  
I can change the world  
I realize this may be a shock but  
“Happiness comes from within.”  
is a lie, and  
“Money will make me happy.”  
So in 30 years I will tell my children  
they are not the most important thing in my life  
My employer will know that  
I have my priorities straight because  
work  
is more important than  
family  
I tell you this  
Once upon a time  
Families stayed together  
but this will not be true in my era  
This is a quick fix society  
Experts tell me  
30 years from now, I will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of my divorce  
I do not concede that  
I will live in a country of my own making  
In the future  
Environmental destruction will be the norm  
No longer can it be said that  
My peers and I care about this earth  
It will be evident that  
My generation is apathetic and lethargic  
It is foolish to presume that  
There is hope.