



## Found Poem

### Salmon Stats Student Worksheet #10

The technical intent of found poetry is to use passages of original pieces (story, article, passage) and combine them together (or only use one and delete parts of it) to bring new meaning to the piece. Since this is an endeavor to present scientific information, students should not adhere to the strict form of found poetry.

Ask students to read a passage and highlight significant terms, phrases, or sentences (if you want the poem to be more minimalistic have them stick to terms). Then students can arrange their chosen segments into their poem.

#### EXAMPLE

**The following text is copied from the Wikipedia page about orcas, under the text is an example of a found poem based on this small passage (the highlighted portions are used for the poem):**

*The orca or killer whale (**Orcinus orca**) is a **toothed whale** belonging to the oceanic dolphin family, of which it is the largest member. It is recognizable by its **black-and-white** patterned body. A cosmopolitan species, orcas can be found in all of the world's oceans in a variety of **marine** environments, from Arctic and Antarctic regions to tropical seas; they are absent only from the Baltic and Black seas, and some areas of the Arctic Ocean.*

*Orcas have a **diverse diet**, although individual populations often specialize in particular types of prey. Some feed exclusively on **fish**, while others **hunt** marine mammals such as **seals** and other species of **dolphin**. They have been known to attack baleen **whale calves**, and even adult blue whales. Orcas are **apex predators**, as they have no natural predators. They are highly social; some populations are composed of very stable **matrilineal family groups** (pods) which are the most stable of any animal species. Their sophisticated hunting techniques and vocal behaviours, which are often specific to a particular group and **passed across generations**, have been described as manifestations of animal culture.*

*The International Union for Conservation of Nature assesses the orca's conservation status as data deficient because of the likelihood that two or more orca types are separate species. Some local populations are considered **threatened** or endangered due to **prey depletion, habitat loss, pollution** (by PCBs), **capture** for marine mammal parks, and **conflicts with human fisheries**. In*

*late 2005, the southern resident orcas, which swim in British Columbia and Washington waters, were placed on the U.S. Endangered Species list.*

*Wild orcas are not considered a threat to humans, and no fatal attack on humans has ever been documented. There have been cases of captive orcas killing or injuring their handlers at marine theme parks. Orcas feature strongly in the mythologies of indigenous cultures, and their reputation in different cultures ranges from being the souls of humans to **merciless killers.***

Website: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orca>

ORCA

Orcinus orca

marine toothed whale black-and-white

diverse diet hunt

fish seals dolphin whale calves

apex predators

matrilineal family groups passed across generations

threatened

prey depletion, habitat loss, pollution, capture, conflicts with human fisheries

merciless killers?