

List poems

I'd like to introduce you to the Japanese poet Sei Shonagon.

She wrote list poems. Lists are a great way to write as you can have a long list or a short list. Sei wrote hundreds of lists about shiny things, soft things, hard things, worries, things that make her annoyed, sad things, things that worried her and so on.

1) Here is a list of twelve things. Sort them into two groups - delicate and strong.

Leaf, skeleton, lace, butterfly, wing, spider's leg, eyeball, fishing line, bubble, snowflake, dried seaweed, cat's tail, snake skin, cloud, rainbow, electricity, elastic band

Delicate things	Strong things

Delicate things are frail, fragile and easily broken.

What would be your list of delicate things? Listing ideas and words is often a good way to start writing. Gather lots of ideas very rapidly. It doesn't matter if they look messy. You won't use all the ideas when you write. Jot them down in your book. Choose things that only you know

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about. Look around the room that you are in. Look out of the window. Look into your mind to places that you know well. Try to spot small, delicate things. Make each idea different and choose your words carefully.

Read the poems below to give you some ideas:

These are my 6 delicate things:



My cat's whiskers

The peacock feather tucked into the mirror

The old dusty books

The echo of my cat's meow

The shadow of the see-through table in the sun

The white grass on a frosty morning

By Hannah



These are my 6 delicate things:

- the touch of my pheasant feather

- the shoots from my cornflower plant

- my mum's soft orange scarf

- the water in a flowing stream

- a cracked egg shell

- my breath when I exhale

By Hector

