NAME _____ DATE _

ONOMATOPOEIA

When you want to use a word to imitate a sound, you use **onomatopoeia**. What does a person scream when he or she sees a mouse? "EEK!" Comic books make excellent use of onomatopoeia with words such as *zap*, *blam*, *zoom*. Onomatopoeia is a sound device that is used not only for humor and fun but also for special effects. For example, Tennyson's line:

Clang battleaxe, and clash brand! Let the king reign.

Another example is found in "Dirge" by Shelly:

Rough wind, that moanest loud . . .

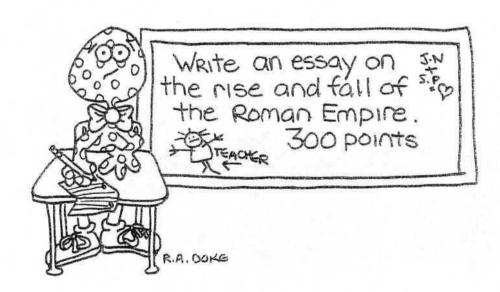
Pick a familiar place and tune your ear into sounds heard there. Then write a poem using onomatopoeia. Put it in the following form:

Classroom

I hear

the screech of chalk on the board, the grinding of a pencil in the sharpener. the tapping of fingers on the desk. the hush of students taking a test.

Now write an onomatopoetic poem about your place.				
I hear				
-				



Onomatopoeia is the imitation in words of the natural sounds of things.

In poetry this device <u>uses words to make us hear how the object sounds</u> and usually are action verbs or adjectives. Onomatopoeia can add to the visual images of a poem, too. Here are some examples.

1. Underline the onomatopoeia in the rest of these sentences.

The bells

The frightened cat

The old engine <u>chugged</u> down the <u>rickety</u> track.	The hard-hit tennis ball whistled by my ear.			
The truck's brakes screeched in the distance.	The old floor creaked as we walked slowly across it.			
The rain beat on the metal barn roof.	The fire crackled and popped on a cold night.			
His guitar strings twanged the sad melody.	The snaked hissed when I startled it.			
 Using onomatopoeia, complete the following sentences. Use adjectives and adverbs to make the sentence more interesting. 				
The wind				
The radio				
His anger				

3. List three onomatopoeia words that fit these categories.					
Hit with a hand.	Talk loudly.	Talk softly.	nonstop talking		
walking sounds	eye movements	Move slowly.	loud noises		
	4hda				
rain sounds	thunder sounds				
-		hree examples of Onon	natopoeia. You can		
use examples from this page or make up others.					