

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Onomatopoeia and Alliteration!

**Instructions:** Read the poem. Circle the different onomatopoeias found in it.

**“Onomatopoeia”** by Eve Merriam

The rusty spigot  
sputters,  
utters  
a splutter,  
spatters a smattering of drops,  
gashes wider;  
slash  
splatters  
scatters  
spurts  
finally stops sputtering  
and splash!  
gushes rushes splashes  
clear water dashes.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What is a spigot?
2. What does this poem *sound* like?
3. What is “onomatopoeia”?
4. What purpose does onomatopoeia have in poetry or other writing?

### **Now you try: Passing Period Poem**

Write a poem about passing period, using 5 onomatopoeias. You may work with a partner.

Use the space below to brainstorm / write down the sounds you hear in the halls:

Begin writing your poem below:

**Instructions:** Read the poem. Underline the different examples of alliteration in it.

**SARAH CYNTHIA SYLVIA STOUT  
WOULD NOT TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT**  
By Shel Silverstein

Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout  
Would not take the garbage out!  
She'd scour the pots and scrape the pans,  
Candy the yams and spice the hams,  
And though her daddy would scream and shout,  
She simply would not take the garbage out.  
And so it piled up to the ceilings:  
Coffee grounds, potato peelings,  
Brown bananas, rotten peas,  
Chunks of sour cottage cheese.  
It filled the can, it covered the floor,  
It cracked the window and blocked the door  
With bacon rinds and chicken bones,  
Drippy ends of ice cream cones,  
Prune pits, peach pits, orange peel,  
Gloppy glumps of cold oatmeal,  
Pizza crusts and withered greens,  
Soggy beans and tangerines,  
Crusts of black burned buttered toast,  
Gristly bits of beefy roasts. . .  
The garbage rolled on down the hall,

It raised the roof, it broke the wall. . .  
Greasy napkins, cookie crumbs,  
Globs of gooey bubble gum,  
Cellophane from green baloney,  
Rubbery blubbery macaroni,  
Peanut butter, caked and dry,  
Curdled milk and crusts of pie,  
Moldy melons, dried-up mustard,  
Eggshells mixed with lemon custard,  
Cold french fried and rancid meat,  
Yellow lumps of Cream of Wheat.  
At last the garbage reached so high  
That it finally touched the sky.  
And all the neighbors moved away,  
And none of her friends would come to play.  
And finally Sarah Cynthia Stout said,  
"OK, I'll take the garbage out!"  
But then, of course, it was too late. . .  
The garbage reached across the state,  
From New York to the Golden Gate.  
And there, in the garbage she did hate,  
Poor Sarah met an awful fate,  
That I cannot now relate  
Because the hour is much too late.  
But children, remember Sarah Stout  
And always take the garbage out!



**Answer the following questions:**

1. What decision does Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout make?
2. What gradually happened over time?
3. What happened to Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout because of it?
4. What is alliteration?
5. How is alliteration being used in this poem?

**Now you try: What If Poem**

Write a poem where you consider what would happen if one of your chores NEVER got done. Use alliteration 5 times in your poem. \*You could consider another "What if" question if you get stuck.