# Found Poetry Sample

The following words, phrases and sentences were taken from the short story, “Choices”, by Susan Kerslake.

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| Subject | Quote from “The Sniper” (or other story) |
| Character | “Peggy had only had a little while to make up her mind.” (117)  “Why couldn’t she feel anymore?” (121)  “…goose bumps exploding, erupting with colour, geysers of fluorescent sparkling pink and green.” (122)  “The fact that there had been a choice, that this was the matter of a choice, struck her.” (127) |
| Mood | “…she knew in a couple of hours that missed sleep would come irresistibly, anesthetically. Stillness wrapped the morning.” (117)  “Only one thing mattered: pain.” (125)  “Out of the space in her chest came the feeling that it wouldn’t be enough, that she would be disappointed.” (126-127) |
| Conflict | “…pain and pressure…coming too fast” (120)  “Such a deep sleep, why wouldn’t they let her finish it, just a few more minutes?” (120)  “Bringing her attention back to what she could hear, she hoped to find Ken’s voice.” (120)  “’I’m here. I hurt. Find me. Hear me. See me.’” (121)  “Where was Ken?” (125) |
| Setting | “Well, rain in the country was better than rain in the city; it would mean a different type of weekend: cozy, fires, snacks…” (117)  “A web of heat.” (118)  “The air was stale and hot.” (121)  “There were things that pressed on her, a cage of hot metal, wires and pipes.” (122) |

**A Matter of Choice**

Sleep would come irresistibly,

Such deep sleep.

The air was stale and hot: a web of heat.

Only one thing mattered: pain.

Where was Ken?

Goose bumps erupting with colour,

Geysers of fluorescent sparkling pink and green:

“I’m here. I hurt. Find me. Hear me. See me.”

It wouldn’t be enough.

She would be disappointed.

There had been a choice.

A different kind of weekend.

By M. Hardjowasito

(based on words from “Choices”, by Susan Kerslake)

**“Charles” Found Poetry Assignment**

Found poetry involves borrowing the author’s words and phrases from a prose piece (usually short story or novel) and reorganizing them in a meaningful way into a poem. The poem is usually free verse, meaning it has no set rhyme or rhythm.

**Instructions:**

* On the chart, write down exact words and phrases from “Charles” which contribute to character, conflict, setting and mood/atmosphere.

choose words, phrases or complete sentences that are particularly evocative and place them in the appropriate column. Remember to include page references.

* Next, start arranging these words and phrases – you don’t necessarily have to use all the words/phrases you’ve recorded – into a poem that reflects the nature of the character or the conflict, or the significance of the setting or mood
* The poem may be free verse – it does not need to rhyme, and each line may vary in length
* You may eliminate words from a phrase if necessary, but please ***do not*** ADD any of your own words or phrases
* Next, focus on an image in the story that stands out to you quite strongly. **Include this image with the good copy of your poem** – please include it on the same paper as your poem. You can use it as the background to your poem, or have it beside the poem. It may be hand-drawn, computer-generated, collage-style (clippings from a magazine or computer art), and so on.

**Criteria:**

* Poem must be a minimum of 10 lines long
* Submit a completed Found Poem Chart (on the back of this page)
* Poem should be typed on computer or handwritten/printed neatly in ink
* Words of the poem must ONLY be from the story
* Words must be from a minimum of 5 different sentences from the story
* Words are organized in a thoughtful way that strongly conveys a clear sense of the character, setting, mood, **or** conflict from the story
* Must include an image from the story that connects to the poem

**Assignment value: /16**

Found Poem Chart

Use the chart below to write **full sentences** from the story. On a separate page, rearrange words and phrases into a meaningful poem.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Quote from “Charles” |
| Character | Laurie regarded his father coldly. ‘I didn’t learn nothing,’ he said.  ‘You know what Charles did?’ he demanded. Following me through the door.  ‘What happened to Charles? My husband asked.h |
| Mood | ‘We’re all so interested in Laurie’, she said.  ‘I’ve been so anxious to meet you,’ you said.  His father bent his head down and Laurie whispered joyfully. |
| Conflict | ‘Charles?’ she said. ‘We don’t have any Charles in the kindergarten.’  ‘He kicked the teacher’s friend,’ Laurie said.  ‘The teacher’s friend told Charles to touch his toes like I just did and Charles kicked him.’ |
| Setting | On Monday Laurie came home late, full of news.  On Friday Charles stayed after school again and so did all the other children.  On Saturday I remarked to my husband, ‘Do you think kindergarten is too unsettling for Laurie?’ |