



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [A. E. Stallings](#) and [Erica Dawson](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt:

In her interview, Erica Dawson talks about the suggestiveness of sound in poetry: “Sounds can be so luscious and equally beautiful when they’re discordant. I love the echo of a sound we expect with a received rhyme scheme...Playing with sound like that keeps a poem on its toes. But, for me, it can’t only be about sound. You have to have something to listen to; but, you’ve got to have something to see and sense, and something to care about and follow.”

Write a poem in which you’re guided by sound, in which sound leads you to new images and metaphors in your writing. In your pre-writing, consider two words that share similar sounds—a rhyme, vowel sounds, or consonants—and then brainstorm about what else they might have in common. For instance: a parrot might eat a carrot; a parrot’s feathers might be bright orange like a carrot; a parrot molts and a carrot is peeled; and so forth. You can use the Lightbox activity, “Making Sense of Sound,” to help you. As you write your poem, think about what possibilities for connection you can find between your initial word and the new words you’ve decided on because of what they share in sound.