

# The New York Public Library

# At Home Activities for Families

## Shape Poems

### Overview

You will work with your child to write a shape poem – a poem that is shaped like the thing it describes.

### Ages

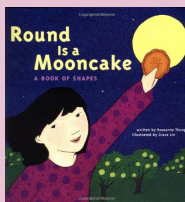
Appropriate for children ages 6-9

### Materials Needed for One Child

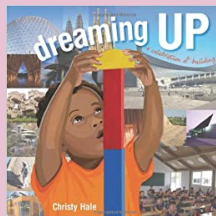
- Pencil
- Blank white paper
- Colored pencils / crayons / markers

### Paired Books for Virtual Read Alouds

The e-books listed below can be accessed through the New York Public Library's digital collections and touch on the themes of the activity. We recommend reading them with your child before or after completing the activity.



**[Round is a Mooncake](#)**  
by Roseanne Thong  
*Accessible through the  
TumbleBooks database*



**[Dreaming Up: A  
Celebration of Building](#)**  
by Christy Hale  
*Accessible through OverDrive*



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## Activity Instructions

1. Tell your child you will be writing a shape poem together. Explain that a shape poem is a poem that is in the shaped like the thing that it describes. For example, you could write a poem about a flower that is in the shape of a flower or a poem about an ice-cream cone in the shape of an ice-cream cone!
2. Read the **Example Shape Poem** (pg. 3) with your child. This poem is about the moon and is in the shape of the moon. Ask your child: *What is the shape of the poem? How do the words of the poem connect to the shape of the poem?*
3. Brainstorm with your child about ordinary and everyday objects that could become the subject of their own shape poem. Consider picking an object that has a special significance for your child (i.e. a stuffed animal). Make sure you are able to easily draw an outline of whatever object you select together. Some suggestions for shape poems are below:
  - *Food ideas:* apple, pizza slice, ice-cream cone, cookie, hamburger, milk carton
  - *Nature and animal ideas:* tree, flower, sun, dog, earth, rain, cloud, butterfly
  - *Common object ideas:* book, lightbulb, skateboard, pencil, basketball, backpack
4. After your child chooses their object, brainstorm with them about all of the things they think of when thinking about that object. Encourage them to use their five senses to describe their object. Optional: have them write down their ideas in a list.
5. Help your child draw an outline of their object on a piece of blank paper. Have them arrange words and phrases about that object (using their brainstorm list) around the outline of the object. Then decorate and share their shape poem with others!

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## Example Shape Poem

The moon is a glowing crescent  
In the middle of the cloudy sky  
Some nights I forget to look up  
But when I do  
And I see the moon  
I imagine  
Everyone else looking  
At the same thing too

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