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## Let's write a poem!

I've adapted my popular school and library poetry workshop "[My Special Place](#)" to help you write a poem. April is Poetry Month, but we can read and write poetry any time! Write this poem by yourself or do it with a friend or family member.

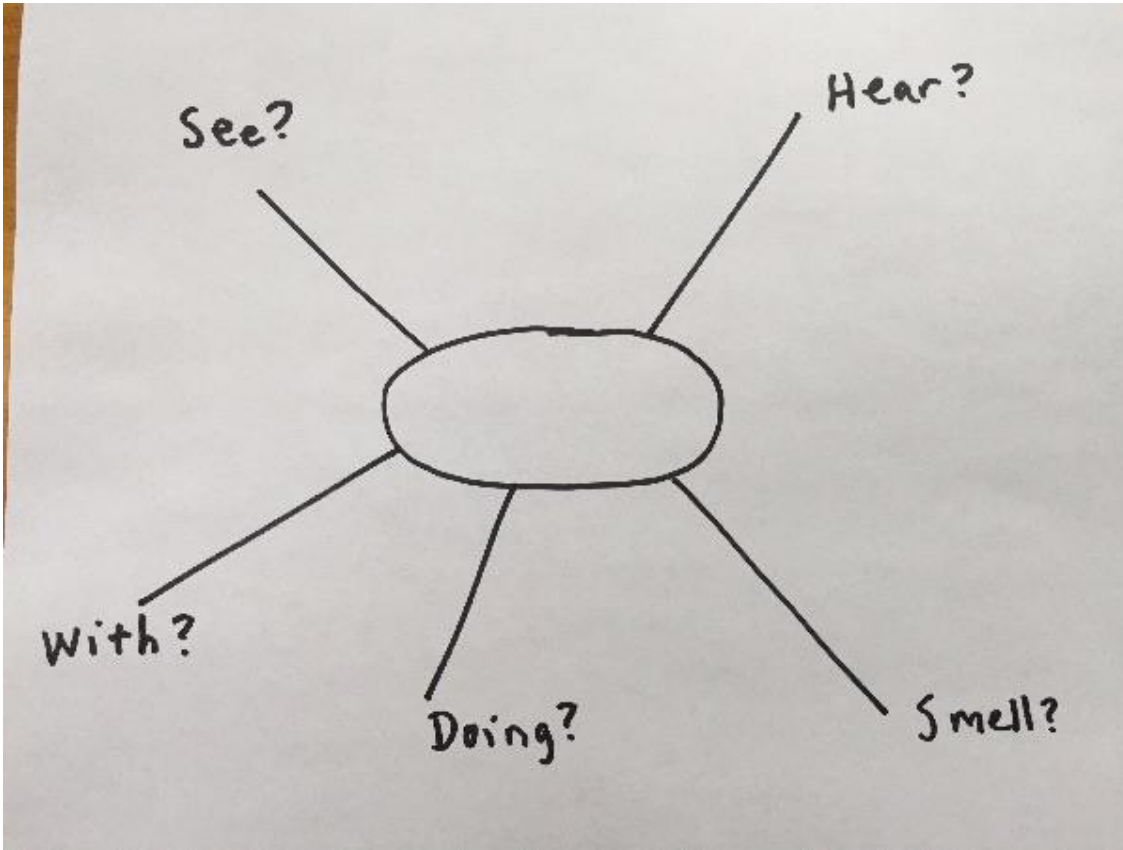
Give it a try! All you need is **your imagination, paper and pencil or pen.**

**Step 1: Think of *your* special place.** It can be anywhere! Beach, treehouse, candy store, kitchen, soccer field, city park, library, mountain top, a secret corner in your house. Take your time to think of a place you love.

**Step 2: Close your eyes and daydream.** Take an imaginary journey around your special place. What do you see? Hear? Smell? What are you doing? Who are you with?

**Step 3: Come out of your dream and make a graphic organizer.** Draw this out on a sheet of paper.

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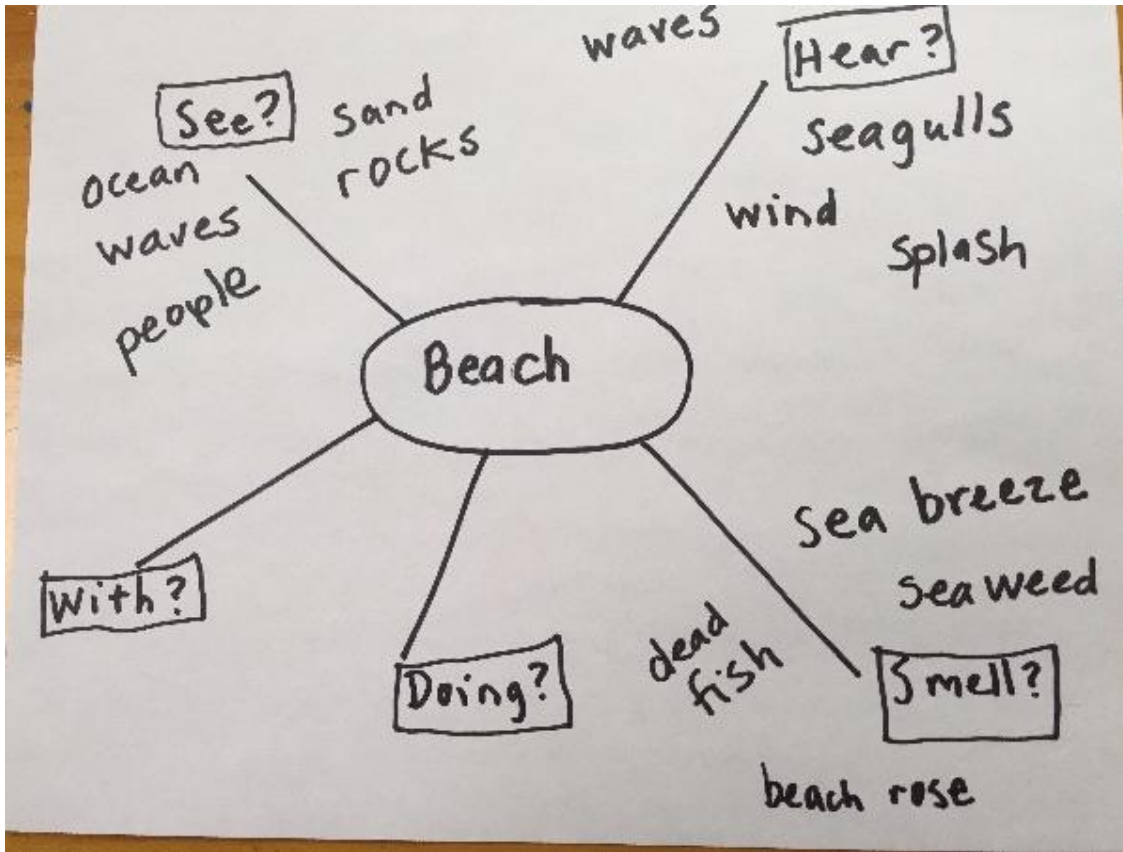


**Step 5: Write the name of your place in the center.** I chose the beach because I love the beach!

**Step 6: Write down what you see, hear, and smell.** Write quickly, just a few words.

Here's mine:

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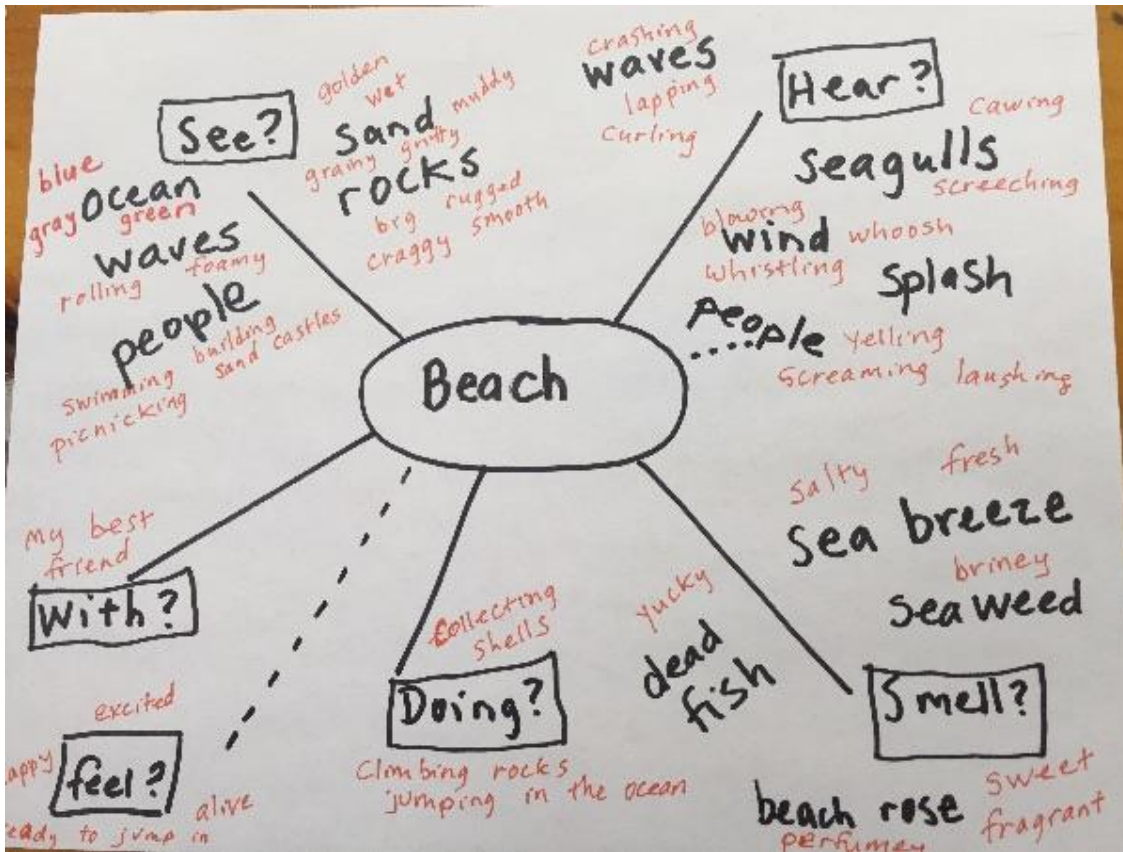


**Step 7: Say more about each word you wrote. Add words to describe.**

**Step 8: Finish up by writing what you're doing and who you're with. If you're alone, that's okay! Just write, "alone."**

**Here's mine:** Notice I added a new category: How do you **feel**?

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Now we've got a big mess! What's next?

**Step 9: Write your first draft.** Get another piece of paper. Where to start? Start with the title and just dig in. Skip around with the words on your graphic organizer. It's a first draft. If you're not happy with it, you can fix it later.

Here's my first attempt.

### At the Beach

Ocean waves  
 blue, gray and green  
 Crashing against rocks  
 Rolling onto sand  
 Tickling my toes

Wind blowing  
 Seagulls cawing  
 soaring in the sky  
 picking at a dead fish

*yuck*

*I'm collecting shells  
and climbing rocks  
big craggy rocks  
with my best friend  
Watch out for slippery seaweed!*

*We jump in the ocean  
kicking and splashing  
excited and happy  
wet and wild  
and free*

**Step 10: Take a break.** Maybe you're done. Maybe you want to revise it later. Maybe you want to draw a picture to go with your poem. Maybe you want to start a new poem.

**Stay tuned!** In my next post, we can write another poem together and I'll talk about revision.

"I see *revision* as a beautiful ray of hope. It's a new vision of something. It means you don't have to be perfect the first time. What a relief!"

Naomi Shihab Nye