Name Period Date

How-to Poem Assessment

You will be getting assigned one state of matter or one change of state. You’ll be showing what you know by writing and illustrating a how-to poem for what you are assigned. A how-to-poem is a list of details that tells the reader exactly how to do something or be something or someone.

**Step 1:**

Begin by looking at the information you have about your assigned state of matter or change of state. When looking through your notes, etc. play with formal and informal language. For example, a formal line for a poem about tornados might say “be a rotating column of air”; an informal line is “be a twist of terror.”

**Step 2:**

Now make a list of illustrated directions for how to be your state of matter or change of state. Use the information you have to make your directions both funny and true. Add illustrations to make your how-to poem come to life for the reader.

**Examples:**

***How to Be a Tornado***

*Be a twist of terror.*

*Suck things up, chew them, and spit them out all ruined.*

*Come from the sky.*

*Be a small rotating column of air*

*That has high wind speed but low central pressure.*

*Treat a house like a doll house and take the roof off.*

*Don’t stop for anyone; keep going.*

*Some people don’t like you; some people think you’re*

*Fascinating.*

***How to Be a Shark***

*Get born with a full set of*

*Self-replicating razor-sharp teeth*

*Swim in the oceans for 400 million years,*

*175 million years before the dinosaurs,*

*(but who’s counting)*

*Devour fish, or squid, or seals*

*And don’t worry*

*If you break a tooth*

*On a bone*

*Because you’ll grow 30,000*

*New ones in a lifetime*

*Lift up your nose and smell*

*Prey two miles away,*

*Roll back your eagle eyes*

*Take a bite*

*But don’t eat humans*

*Yuck,*

*They taste bad*

*Even with ketchup.*

**Requirements:**

* Illustration shows what is happening at the atomic level (what do the molecules look like?)
* Minimum of 8 lines to the poem
* Poem includes information about
	+ the speed of the molecules
	+ the way they are grouped together (or not grouped together)
	+ the movement of the molecules (are they vibrating in place, slipping past one another….?).
	+ 2 or more examples of your state of matter or change of state

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Illustration | Clearly shows what is happening at the atomic level | Shows what is happening at the atomic level | Illustration present but doesn’t show what is happening at the atomic level | No illustration |
| Length | 8 well written lines to the poem | 5 to 7 well written lines to the poem | 3 to 4 well written lines to the poem | 2 or less lines to the poem or poem shows little to no effort |
| Content | All required content is included and correct | Most required content is included and correct | Some required content is included or some content is incorrect | None of the required content is included |