

Middle School ELA: *Garvey's Choice* Juicy Sentence Example

JUICY SENTENCE

"When I Sing" pg. 75 (from [Garvey's Choice](#) by Nikki Grimes)

When I sing, my heart
floats full and light, as if I'm
a balloon of a song,
rising with every lyric,
reaching the edges of space.

WHOLE

Questions about the Sentence

- What is the meaning of this sentence? Why do we think that?
- How can we say this sentence in our own words?

PART: Break it Down!

Questions about the chunks:

When I sing,	my heart floats	full and light,	as if I'm a balloon	of a song,	rising with every lyric,	reaching the edges of space.
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- Can we say this sentence in a different order? How?
- "My heart floats" - what does this chunk tell us? When does this happen for Garvey? (When I sing)
- "full and light" - what more does this tell you about how Garvey feels? How does this add to the previous chunk?
- "as if I'm a balloon" - what does this chunk add to our understanding?
- "rising with every lyric" - Can you act out this chunk? Would you like to sketch it?
- How does the chunk "reaching the edges of space" tell you more about how Garvey feels when he sings?

Questions about the words:

- Let's look closer at the word *lyric*.
 - Let's clap it - lyr-ic
 - How many syllables are in this word? (two)
 - The first syllable *lyr* comes from the name of this instrument, a lyre. Does this instrument remind you of another instrument you know (maybe any stringed instrument like a harp, guitar, violin, etc.)
 - The second syllable *ic* means *like or related to*.
 - Let's put these two parts together



Lyre

lyre + like/related to = like the lyre, related to the lyre

- It turns out that lyric means words that go along with a song!
- Can you think of a synonym for this lyric? (words)
- How do the two words mean different things?

WHOLE

Take a Step Back

- Now, what do you think is the meaning of this sentence?
- What do you notice about the details in the sentence? How do each of the chunks relate to each other?
- How does this sentence add to our understanding of Garvey as a character?

WRITING PRACTICE:

Part 1: Students can create and complete sentence frames with personal details.

Sample Sentence Frame:

When I _____, my heart _____ as if I'm a _____, _____ with every _____, _____ (the) _____.

(verb/hobby) (verb) (adj and adj) (noun -thing) (verb) (noun) (verb) (noun - place)

Sample Completed Sentence Frame:

When I read, my heart blooms, new and beautiful, as if I'm a flower, blossoming with every word, growing into what I am.

Part 2: Consider inviting students to revise their sentences into the Tanka poetic form:

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

Line 4: 7 syllables

Line 5: 7 syllables

Sample Tanka Poem:

When I read, my heart
blooms new and fresh, as if I'm
a flowering bud,
blossoming with each word read,
growing into what I am.