Shape Poems

In a shape poem the theme or subject of the poem dictates the form or shape of the poem. Poetry is meant to be read aloud and these poems often use sounds to create images for the reader. This poem is about a pet snake. Note the use of the ‘s’ sound and the shape of the poem. A famous use of sound in a story is Rudyard Kipling’s description of the river in his story the Elephant’s child. It goes: “… the great, grey, green, greasy Limpopo River…” Note how the sounds and lengthening of the words creates a mind picture for the reader.

Country: Australia

Title: Arnold

Slithery
  Sliddery
    Slinky and
      Inky my
        Pet snake
          Called Arnold
            Is driving me
              Blinky.

He
   Lies in my
    Lunchbox
      And eats
        All my smarties
          Then calmly
            Announces
              He wants
                Green
                  Frog tarties.

Author: Patricia Carmichael, Teacher Librarian, Concordia Lutheran College, Toowoomba  QLD AUSTRALIA

Explanatory note: The shape of the poem looks like a snake and the author has used the “s” sound (alliteration) to emphasise the “snakey” theme.
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<tr>
<th>Glossary of terms</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>smarties</td>
<td>multi-coloured, chocolate candy covered with a hard crunchy outer layer</td>
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<tr>
<td>tarts</td>
<td>tarts - small fruit pies</td>
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