

# David Bowie / Cut-up Poetry

## by Megan Bastable



### You need:

- Old books, magazines or letters you don't mind drawing or cutting
- A piece of paper to write or stick your poem onto
- A pen to write with and/or something to draw onto your magazines with such as a pencil or highlighter
- Scissors (if you have them)
- Glue stick (if you have one)



### Step 1 - Music:

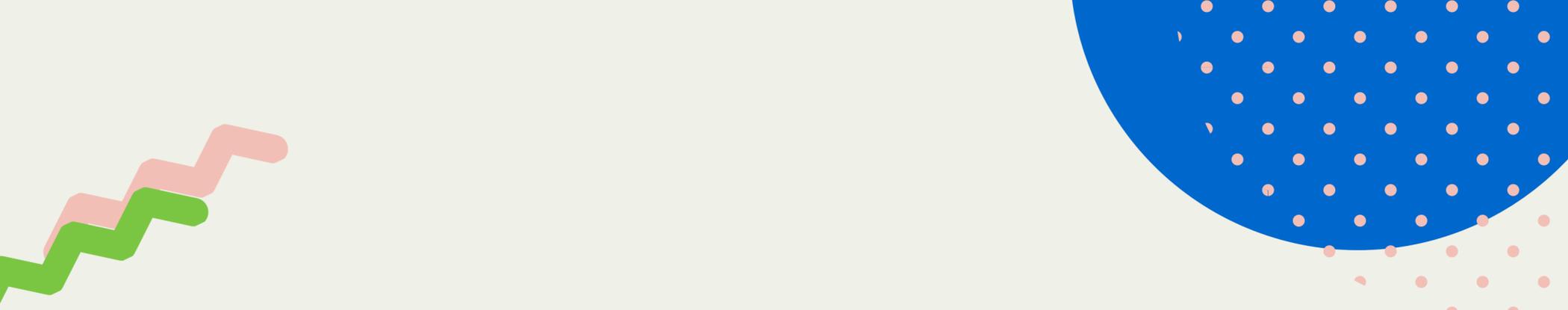
How do you want your poem to feel? Romantic? Funny? Angry or passionate? Use music or even recorded sounds from the internet such as bird-song or waves to inspire your choices in the next step.



### Step 2 - Choosing your words:

Get a pen and begin to circle words that pop out at you. Don't think too hard and don't try to make them make sense. Just circle anything that happens to stand out. Do this until you have around 30-50 words or more!





### Step 3 - To glue, or not to glue:

Now, you have two options here. If you don't feel comfortable cutting out the words because you want the book in tact, or the words are too small – then you can just put the words in order by copying them out onto your paper or note book. But, if you are happy to snip away, then cut out all your circled words.



### Step 4 - Arrange your words:

This is when we bring your poem to life! Only using conjunctions such as **and**, **also**, **but**; **the's** and **a's**; and the words in front of you - begin to arrange your words into a poem. You have two options here. You can either: 1) stick your words using your glue stick onto the paper and write your extra words in between creating a collage.

Or, 2) just copy the words out onto your paper in your desired order by hand and pen (or even into a document on your laptop should you prefer).

Even here, don't think too hard! The beauty of many of Bowie's songs is that the poetry of them comes from their nonsensicalness.

