



## Rousselian poem challenge.

Write a poem inspired by the French author Raymond Roussel, who wrote stories that start and end with the same sentence but have different meanings.

Start by writing your first line which includes words that are spelt the same but have different meanings (homonyms), or you can use words that sound the same but have different spellings (homophones).

Then write a poem that takes you from the meaning of the first line to the meaning of the last line.

Here is an example:

### Shells in the Sand

He studies the shells in the sand  
where moments ago  
children had been playing.  
Recalls days at the beach,  
seaside amusements in the evenings  
feeling at home on the shooting range  
plinking metal ducks with an air rifle,  
the first time he'd held a gun.

He grips the rifle in his hand,  
curses the desert heat,  
ducks metal as shrapnel  
pocks the wall that shelters him;  
the wall of a house  
outside which moments ago  
children had been playing.  
He studies the shells in the sand.

Raymond Roussel (1877-1933) was a French poet, novelist, playwright, musician, and chess enthusiast. Through his novels, poems, and plays he exerted a profound influence on certain groups within 20th century French literature, including the Surrealists, Oulipo, and the authors of the *nouveau roman*.

Derek Adams

And here are some further responses to the **Erosion Poem Challenge**

From Derek Adams:

Bagatelle  
tag a bell  
beat lag  
be a tag  
at age  
get  
tea  
at  
T

Intimidated  
I intimated  
neat timid  
intimate  
time in a  
tin. I am  
main  
man  
an  
A

From Antony Johae:

**Beginnings**

In genesis is sin.  
Sin's innings begins  
in gigs 'n gin 'n binges.  
Big in being  
sin sees,  
sings in inns,  
singeing.

I ebb.