

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**What If Poetry Writing Template**  
an online resource from the WritingFix website

A *What If...* poem has five stanzas. The first four stanzas are *What If...* statements inspired by your imagination. The final *What If...* statement is about a topic that is more serious and from your heart. This planning sheet will help you make a rough draft for your poem.

Plan your poem's stanzas in the following five boxes. If you want to have more than five stanzas, just plan extra ones on another piece of paper:	Words that begin phrases:
<p><b>Stanza #1 (Use your imagination!):</b></p> <p>What if _____ (noun or nouns) _____ (verb, past tense)</p> <p>_____ (phrase #1)</p> <p>_____ (transition word) _____ (noun + verb+ phrase #2)</p> <p>_____ (transition word) _____ (noun + verb+ phrase #3)</p>	<p>After Along Around Before Behind Below Between By During From Inside Like Off On Onto Over Past Toward Through Under/underneath With</p>
<p><b>Stanza #2 (Use your imagination!):</b></p> <p>What if _____ (noun or nouns) _____ (verb, past tense)</p> <p>_____ (phrase #1)</p> <p>_____ (transition word) _____ (noun + verb+ phrase #2)</p> <p>_____ (transition word) _____ (noun + verb+ phrase #3)</p>	<p><b>Transition word choices:</b></p> <p>After And As As if As long as As soon as As though Because Before But Even if Even as Then Though Unless Until When Whenever While</p>
<p><b>Stanza #3 (Use your imagination Can you write a thorough one without all the lines from above?):</b></p> <p>What if</p>	

Stanza #4 (use your imagination!):

What if

Stanza #5 (write a *What If* stanza about something important to your heart):

What if

Topic ideas that are from the heart:

Family  
Home  
Peace  
Friendship  
Imagination  
Freedom  
Creativity  
Kindness  
Generosity  
Health  
Love  
Life  
Death  
Or...?

**Would it make someone happy or sad to read your last stanza? If “sad” is your answer, can you find a way to write it so the same idea sounds happy?**