

## Gift Wraps

A collaborative game - any number, including large groups. Adaptable for most ages.  
The aim: to produce a short poem: an image with a feeling in it... and surprises.

Think of someone you have a strong feeling about - and would like to give them a gift...  
of love? of hate? of reproach? of...?

Write a single word or phrase - e.g. *I want to give you...*

*...the earth*                      *...a book made of skin*                      *...a portable hole*

Pass on to next person. Add a second line, with an unexpected detail - e.g.

*... the earth*  
*tied up in a big pink ribbon*

*...a book made of skin*  
*with the story of your whole life from now on*

*... a portable hole*  
*so you can escape whenever you feel trapped*

Pass on again OR return to sender. Add two or three lines to clinch it: a punch line, resolution or haunting image.

*... the earth*  
*tied up in a big pink ribbon*  
*like red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning -*  
*there'll be thunderstorms to come*

*...a book made of skin*  
*with the story of your whole life from now on*  
*written backwards, inside out, in invisible ink*  
*that appears very slowly, held up to the light of time*

*... a portable hole*  
*so you can escape whenever you feel trapped*  
*like you say you do with me.*  
*OK, have it your own way -*  
*here, catch!*

Share in whole group, read by originating writer, acknowledging their collaborators (In large groups, share in small groups, which select the one which contains, and yet makes fit, the greatest surprise. Read these back to whole group, maybe anonymously: the poems read out are not 'winners' but represent the shared discernment of the group.)

Philip Gross 2010