

LANGUAGE

WITH CONSTRAINTS.

For this project, I aim to explore the kind of **limitations** that can be applied to **language and literature**. Through this exploration, I want to observe if creative writing limitations are **productive** or quite the opposite.

UMAIR ABBASI | STUDIO II



HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS.

The Rise of **Surrealism** in the Arts brought a lot of changes to creative practices, giving birth to a number of various discourses on medium, technique, representation etc.

Another thing that Surrealist ideology affected was our approach towards **literature**. One such change in ideology is what caused a disagreement between two surrealists, **Andre Breton and Raymond Queneau** on experimental literature.

OULIPO

Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle.

Workshop of Potential Literature.

OULIPO
POETRY &
STRUCTURAL
CONSTRAINTS

Founded in 1960 by French mathematician **Francois de Lionnais** and writer **Raymond Queneau**, ***OULIPO*** investigates the possibilities of verse written under a system of structural constraints with a formula for each work.

OULIPO

N+7

This technique involves taking a poem or piece of writing that already exists, and substituting **each noun** with the one that occurs **seven nouns away** in the dictionary.

Based on the **dictionary** used, this technique can have very different outcomes.

THE RED WHEELBARROW

William Carlos Williams.

The Red Wheelbarrow

so much depends

upon

a red wheel

barrow

glazed with rain

water

beside the white

chickens.

The Red Whelp

so much depends

upon

a red whelk

basilica

glazed with raisin

waterproof

beside the white

childhoods.

OULIPO

SNOWBALL

+1

Using this **constraint**, the first line of your writing would consist of **one word/letter**, the next **two words/letters** and so on.

OULIPO

SNOWBALL

+1

I
am
now
post
haste
(sort of)
posting
new topic
to discuss.
do you enjoy
constraints?
does word play
give headaches?

BRIEF

Literature dependent on constraints.

**ASCENDING
ODDEVEN
POEM**

$L_{1\text{odd}} = (a, c, e)$

$L_{2\text{even}} = (b, d, f)$

Wordcount= alphabetical order

1 3 5 7 9 11

**A cab eject, garbage, Imagining Kurdistanis
By dead fabric horridly journalist liberalizing**

2 4 6 8 10 12

**ALPHABETICAL
SNOWBALL**

A by cab dead 1 2 3 4

Eject fabric garbage 5 6 7

Horridly imagining journalist 8 9 10

Kurdistanis liberalizing. 11 12

ASCENDING FIBONACCI WRITING

Sentence Structure
= Fibonacci Sequence.

Eject.	1
Journalist.	1
Horridly Liberalizing.	2
Imagining Kurdistanis fabric.	3
Dead by a Garbage Cab.	5

Eject.
Journalist.
Horridly Liberalizing.
Imagining Kurdistanis fabric.
Dead by a Garbage Cab.

FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

A by cab dead
Eject fabric garbage
Horridly imagining journalist
Kurdistanis liberalizing.

ALPHABETICAL SNOWBALL

A cab eject, garbage, Imagining Kurdistanis
By dead fabric horridly journalist liberalizing.

ASCENDING ODD-EVEN POEM

ASCENDING FIBONACCI WRITING

Fibonacci Sequence = Letter Count.

Word 1 = 1, Word 2 = 1, Word 3 = 2, Word 4 = 3, and so on.

1 1 2 3 5 8 13 21

I, I, no sea, ocean aircraft, skateboarding photomicrographically.

The possibility of Oulipian Literature are
endless, only due to its *constraints*.

Thank you.