Found Poetry Instructions

- Read the text and highlight words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting about seabirds. Repeat this step if needed.

- Read your list carefully and delete anything that is dull or doesn't seem right for a poem about seabirds and conservation. If your original list is very long, try to remove half.

- Think about the tone that words and phrases you've selected convey. The words should communicate meaning as much as possible.

- You can make minor changes to punctuation or variations to words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalisations).

- Your found poem is beginning to take shape! If you feel you absolutely need to add a word to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, or to make a stronger point, you may add up to three words of your own. Only three!

- Read back over your edited draft again and make any deletions or minor changes.

- Give your poem a title.

- Finalise the poem to enhance the overall effect and construction of meaning. Space or arrange the words so that they are poem-like. Pay attention to line breaks, layout, and other elements that will emphasise important words or significant ideas in the poem:

  - Read aloud as you arrange the words! Test the possible line breaks by pausing slightly. If it sounds good, it's probably right.
  - Arrange the words so that they make a rhythm you like. You can space words out so that they are all alone or allruntogether.
  - You can also put key words on lines by themselves.
  - You can shape the poem so that it's wide or tall or shaped a certain way (like a bird).
  - Emphasise words by playing with bold and italics, different sizes of letters, and so forth.

- At the bottom of the poem, indicate where the words in the poem originally came from.

- Be prepared to display or perform your found poem to the class.