

List poems

Japanese poet Sei Shonagon wrote hundreds lists about shiny things, soft things, hard things, worries, things that made her annoyed, sad things, things that worried her and many more.

Here are 12 things that are either delicate or strong. Sort them in to the correct groups.

Leaf      skeleton      lace      butterfly wing  
spider's leg      eyeball      fishing line      bubble  
snowflake      dried seaweed      cat's tail  
snake skin      cloud      rainbow      electricity  
elastic band

Delicate things	Strong things

Delicate things are frail, fragile and easily broken. What would be your list of delicate things? Listing ideas and words is often a good way to start writing. Gather lots of ideas as quickly as you can.

Now choose your special ideas. Choose things that only you know about. Look around the room that you are in. Look out of the window. Look into your mind to places that you know well. Try to spot small, delicate things. Make each idea different and choose your words carefully.

Read along or listen to a reading of some example poems here.

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/delicate/s-WHFBgukquIj>

1. My cat's whiskers

The peacock feather tucked into the mirror  
The old dusty books  
The echo of my cat's meow  
The shadow of the see-through table in the sun  
The white grass on a frosty morning

2. The touch of my pheasant feather

The shoots from my cornflower plant  
My Mum's soft, orange scarf  
The water in the flowing stream  
A cracked egg shell  
My breath when I exhale

3. The warm cookies in the oven

The flickering flames of the silent candle  
The small sliver of sun on the wall  
The warm feeling when you drink hot drinks  
The pages of a book as they feebly blow in the wind  
The line between the horizon and the empty sky  
The sweet sound of the animals rustling in the bushes

Monday

Now write your own list poem about delicate things. Use your home surroundings to inspire you.