

David Bowie, Songwriter

Aladdin Sane was both a character and the name of an album.

What do you notice about the name of this character? What might it tell us about David Bowie?



The Jean Genie was another character created by Bowie.
Listen to the song *The Jean Genie*

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Here are some of the lyrics from the song. What do you think about them?
Do you like them? Why or why not?

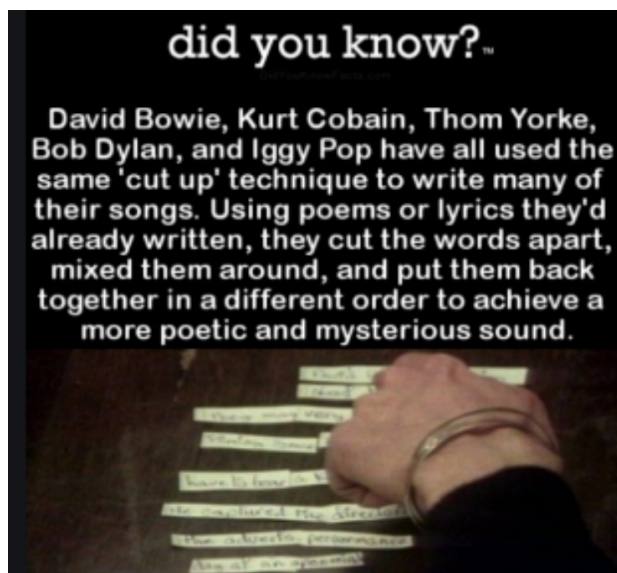
Talking 'bout Monroe and walking on Snow White
New York's a go-go, and everything tastes right
Poor little Greenie, ooh-ooh

Sits like a man but he smiles like a reptile

Oh, Jean Genie lives on his back
The Jean Genie loves chimney stacks
He's outrageous, he screams and he bawls (Jean Genie)
Jean Genie, let yourself go, whoah

Where have you
heard the name
Monroe before?
Who is Snow White?

You may ask, how does Bowie come up with these strange lyrics? Well, he used a technique called *cut-ups*.



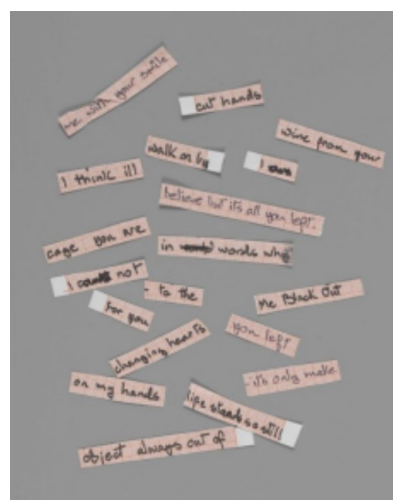
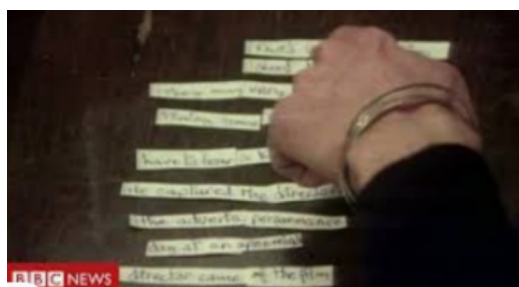
Bowie's cut-ups technique:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1InCrzGIPU>

Your Task

You are going to write your own poem or song, using Bowie's cut-ups technique!

1. Copy out lots of phrases from a reading book, poetry book or song you know onto strips of paper (remember a phrase is a small group of words that form part of a clause or a sentence).



2. Select from your bank of phrases and organise into a poem or song lyrics. Try lots of different ways before deciding on what you think sounds the best. Discard any phrases you don't use.

3. Publish neatly, starting a new line for each new line of your song and save for this week's oracy activity!