

Sound Waves

By Michael Salinger

Sound travels in waves
like ripples from a penny
dropped in a bucket of water.

Once sound is created

a tick, a tock

a clap

a boom

a whisper

a crackle

a crash, a zoom

its energy rides upon the crest
doing what any wave does best.

Traveling through

air, water, or even a solid

until its energy is finally used up

and the noise fades to quiet

the sound flattened to stillness

not making a peep

until that dog next door barks

setting off another wave

waking you from your sleep.



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Light and Sound

by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

Take 5!

1. Before sharing this poem, take a moment to **encourage students to close their eyes and listen carefully** to the sounds all around them. After a moment of silence, continue by reading the poem aloud.
2. Next, read the poem aloud again and **invite students to say the sound words** in the poem (“a tick, a tock / a clap / a boom / a whisper / a crackle / a crash, a zoom”) while you read the rest aloud.
3. **Work together to locate examples of the sounds included in the poem** using online resources such as *SoundCloud.com*. Play them while reading the poem aloud together again—and make a recording of the reading.
4. Using the examples in this poem, **talk about how energy exists in many forms, including sound waves**. Consider how the effects can vary with increasing or decreasing amounts of sound energy depending on how close the sound is and how much force is used to make the sound. Rank the examples in the poem from loud to soft, using a chart showing common sounds listed according to noise levels (see Internet Resources).
5. Explore a similar poem about sounds we hear every day, **“Sound Waves at Breakfast” by Susan Marie Swanson** ([Pinterest.com/pin/361625045063050281](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/361625045063050281)) or share *The Sound of Silence* by Katrina Goldsaito (2016).

Internet Resources

Sound Level Chart

www.chem.purdue.edu/chemsafety/Training/PPETrain/dblevels.htm

“Sound Waves at Breakfast” by Susan Marie Swanson
www.pinterest.com/pin/361625045063050281

References

- Goldsaito, K. 2016. *The sound of silence*. New York: Little, Brown.
- Swanson, S.M. 2014. Sound waves at breakfast. In *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science*, ed. S. Vardell and J. Wong, 121. Princeton, NJ: Pomelo Books.