

[DISCUSS]

Unsung

—for the *Unsung Founders Memorial* (UNC Chapel Hill), 2005 (black granite, bronze sculpture)
by Do-Ho Suh

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Discussion Points: Concrete Poetry, Points in Time, Physical Space, Political Poems

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way could this poem be considered concrete poetry? What's another concrete element the poet could have used here instead?
2. Identify the ways this poem was influenced by time—both political and personal. Which details in the poem would change if it were created at a different point in time? Which would stay the same at any point in time?
3. How is the poetic interpretation of the outdoor sculpture in this poem influenced by how the sculpture occupies physical space (compared to how artwork on paper occupies space)?
4. At the close of the poem, what effect does repetition of the first line have?
5. In her *New York Times* essay “Political Poetry is Hot Again. The Poet Laureate Explores Why, and How,” Tracy K. Smith discusses how poetry moves through the body to deliver socially relevant messages. Where and how does “the body” play a role in this poem?

Sources:

“Glossary of Poetic Terms: Concrete poetry.” *Poetry Foundation*. 2020.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/glossary-terms/concrete-poetry>

Smith, Tracy K. “Political Poetry is Hot Again. The Poet Laureate Explores Why, and How.” *The New York Times*. 10 December 2018. 9 November 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/10/books/review/political-poetry.html>