

# Open the Wall Activity

Author Eugene Ionesco likes to talk too much, repeating and saying the same things over and over again, dislocating language in order to create absurd silly stories. After listening to the episode and hearing some examples of the ways you can use dislocated language, try practicing and playing with writing a dislocated language story of your own.

## What You Need

- A pencil or pen, or crayons or markers, or pen or pencil, or markers or crayons, or something to write with
- [Open the Wall Downloadable Activity](#)
- Maybe more paper, if you can't stop dislocating language after you get started

## Wordplay Activity - for ages 7 to 11

1. Read the excerpt from Stories 2 by Eugene Ionesco at the top of the [Open the Wall Activity](#) worksheet. It is a crazy quote from Josette, who apparently likes to eat pillows!
2. Use the translation key found on the worksheet to reveal the real meaning of each word. See if you can figure out what Josette really likes to eat, because I'm pretty sure it's not pillows.
3. Use the space provided on the worksheet to rewrite what Josette said, but translate it to make sense.

## Recording Challenge

1. Write a short story of your own. Maybe one inspired by a story you heard in the episode or one about a dream or your mom or your favorite color or your mom's favorite color. You get the idea, you can choose to write about anything you'd like.
2. Circle all of the nouns in your story. Look for all of the people, animals, places, things and ideas and circle them.
3. Make a list of those nouns and then write new meanings for those words, in other words, dislocate the language. For example, if your story includes the noun 'pencil', come up with another meaning for 'pencil', perhaps 'tiger'.
4. Now, rewrite your story, replacing your original noun (i.e. pencil) with your new word (i.e. elephant) using the translation key you created in step 3. For example, if your story includes the sentence, "I like to draw with a pencil." You'll rewrite that sentence to read, "I like to draw with a tiger."
5. Rewrite your full story using your new nouns.
6. Read it aloud to friends and family or record your absurd nonsense story.
7. Share the translation key to your story, or don't, and see if others can figure out what your story is really about!

Here is the [PDF of the Open the Wall Activity Worksheet](#)