

Image Grammar  
Chapter 4—Teaching Voice  
Strategy #4 “Imitate Poetic Sentences”

**A Litany**

by Gregory Orr

I remember him falling beside me,  
the dark stain already seeping across his parka hood.  
I remember screaming and running the half mile to our house.  
I remember hiding in my room.  
I remember that it was hard to breath  
and that I kept the door shut in terror that someone would enter.  
I remember pressing my knuckles into my eyes.  
I remember looking out the window once  
at where the ambulance backed up  
over the lawn to the front door.  
I remember someone hung from a tree near the barn  
the deer we'd killed just before I shot my brother.  
I remember toward evening someone came up with soup.  
I slurped it down, unable to look up.  
In the bowl, among the vegetable chunks,  
pale shapes of the alphabet bobbed at random  
or lay in the shallow spoon.

**Directions:** Use the next five minutes to write your own “I remember” poem. Be prepared to read your beginning four to five lines aloud.

I remember \_\_\_\_\_\*

\*special thanks to Gregory Orr for the first line