

## Betsy Blair Workshop/ *Our Places Tell Stories* Conference

### Mojave Desert Creative Movement Poem

This action poem is based on creative movement concepts from the Rudolf Laban modern dance tradition and takes students through contrasting spacial dimensions and qualities of action. Fill in the last of the line with the names of plants, animals, insects, formations, or other aspects that can be acted out from your specific environment. Alternative or similar descriptors are provided in parentheses. Feel free to add your own.

1. I am as **tall** as... **Joshua Tree**  
(high, long)
2. I am as **small** as... **Western Pipistrelle (bat)**  
(low, short)
3. I am as **wide** as... **Turkey Vulture wingspan**  
(open, flat, round)
4. I am as **narrow** as... **Desert Willow leaves**  
(closed, tight, thin)
5. I am as **twisted** as... **Indigo Bush**  
(knotted, crooked, spiraled)
6. I am as **straight** as ... **Utah Agave**  
(balanced, centered)
- .....
7. I am as **strong** as .... **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**  
(powerful, weighted, immovable)
8. I am as **light** as... **Black-chinned Hummingbird**  
(delicate, feathery, floating)
9. I am as **slow** as... **Desert Tortoise**  
(plodding, careful, determined)
10. I am as **fast** as ... **Coyote**  
(quick, sudden, perky, percussive)
- .....
11. I am as **winding** as... **Mojave Rattlesnake**  
(indirect, meandering, diffuse)
12. I am as **sharp-eyed** as... **Burrowing Owl**  
(direct, straight forward, focused)
13. I am as **busy** as... **Ground Squirrel**  
(active, agitated, buzzing)
14. I am as **still** as... **Desert Horned Lizard**  
(centered, paused, resonating)

**Since I am all of these things, what am I? ....the Mojave Desert!**

**Animals and plants listed above correlate with the Mojave Desert educational flash cards and the alphabet poster by Sharon K. Schafer.**