

## Computer Poetry

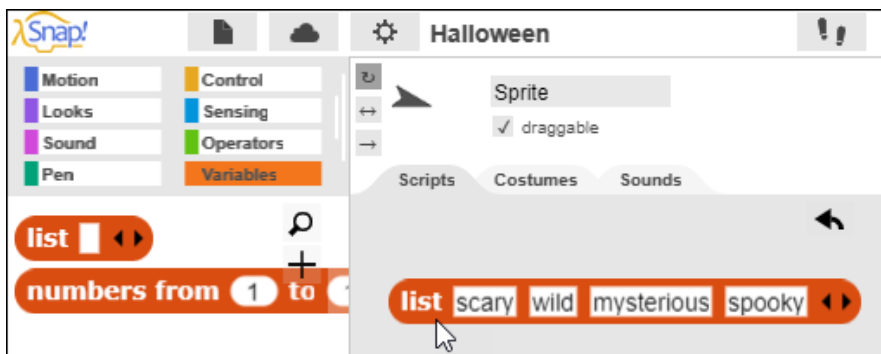
One frequently heard complaint from language arts teachers is that children use boring adjectives. One teacher calls them "the terrible ten" - nice, okay, good, etc. Computer poetry offers an opportunity to learn about parts of speech and explore a more expressive vocabulary. The basic form of a poetry generator used in one teacher's class for Halloween looks like this.

Print Sentence [Halloween is] Adjective  
Print Sentence [Halloween is] Noun  
Print Sentence [Place]

The poem generator generates a sentence such as "Halloween is *Some Adjective*" by picking an adjective from a list of adjectives.

### Making a List of Adjectives

The Halloween poem begins by entering adjectives like "scary," "wild," "mysterious," and "spooky" into a list. The *Snap!* list code block is found under the *Variables* section of the code block palette.

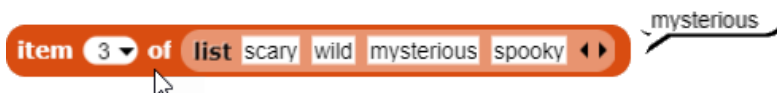


The adjectives are entered into the spaces of the List code block. New slots for additional words can be added by clicking the right arrow at the right end of the code block.



### Randomly Picking a Word

The Item code block (also found under the *Variables* section of the code block Palette) can be used to pick any item from a list. In this illustration, Item 3 of List has been used to select the third word, *mysterious*.



The *Random* option available under the dropdown menu of the Item code block can be used to randomly select one of the words from the list.

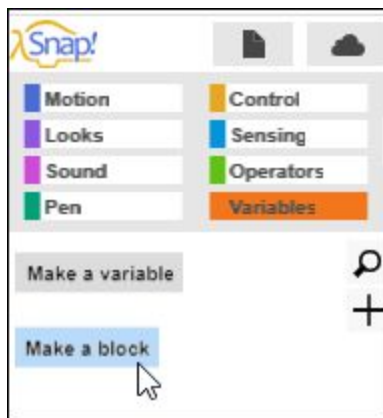


In this example, the word *wild* has been randomly selected from the list.

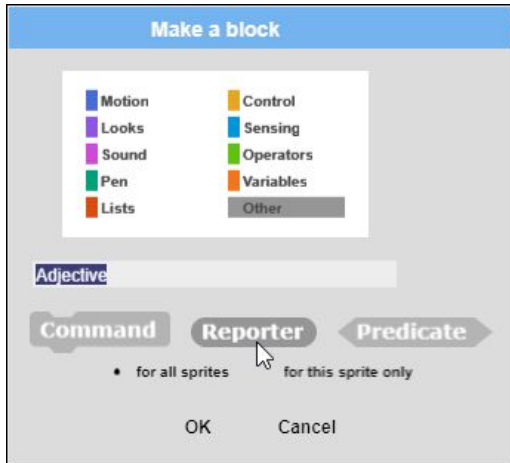


## Halloween Adjectives

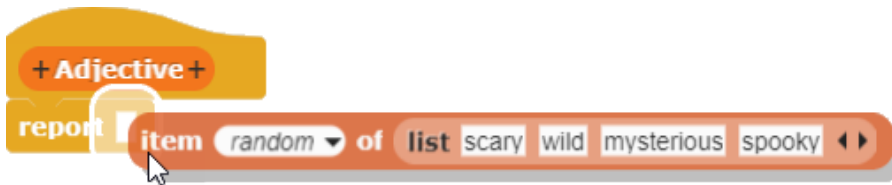
The combined Item and List code blocks can be used to create a new code block named Adjective. To create a new code block, click the *Make a Block* button found at the top of the code block *Palette*.



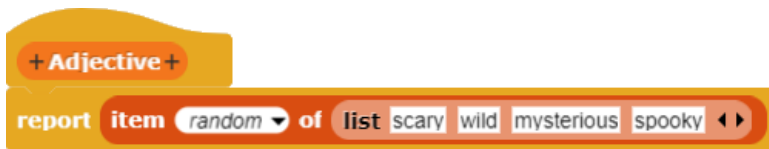
Enter the word *Adjective* into the dialog box that appears. Select the *Reporter* button as an option for this code block. (The default *for all sprites* option can be left unchanged.)



Then drag the combined Item and List code blocks into the open slot for the Reporter block that appears.



The new definition for the Adjective code block that is being created will look like this.



A new user-defined code block will appear in the section of the code block *Palette* within which it was created.



Drag the new code block into the script area. Clicking the Adjective code block will generate a random word from the previously entered list of words.

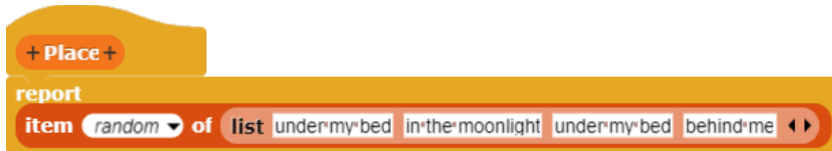
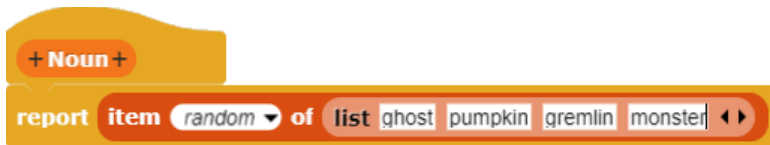


### Creating Halloween Sentences

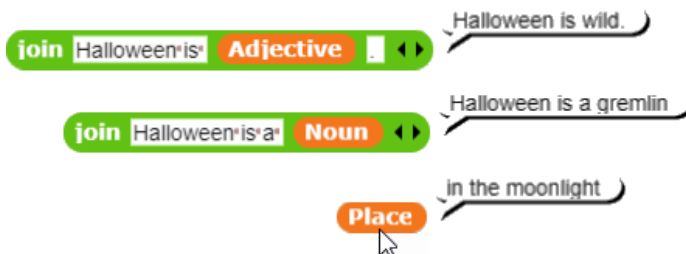
The Join code block (found under the *Operators* section of the code block *Palette*) can be used to join a randomly generated Halloween adjective with the phrase, *Halloween is \_\_\_\_\_*. For example:



A similar method can be used to create Halloween Noun and Place code blocks



The Adjective, Noun, and Place code blocks can generate Halloween sentences to form a Halloween poem.



### Halloween Poem

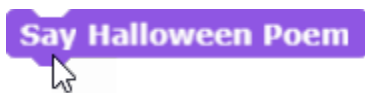
A variety of standard costumes are available in the Snap! *Costume* library. It is also possible to import external graphics into the *Costume* library. In the following illustration, Alexis (on the right) has created an avatar (on the left) and used the Say code block to enable the avatar to express itself.



The code block Say Halloween Poem was created for the avatar (i.e., original artwork was used as a costume for the *Snap!* sprite).

```
+ Say + Halloween + Poem +  
say join Halloween is a Adjective for 2 secs  
say join Halloween is a Noun for 2 secs  
say Place for 2 secs
```

Clicking the Say Halloween Poem code block causes the avatar to recite a Halloween poem.



A photograph of a person could also be imported into *Snap!* and used as the costume for an avatar.