

Walk Around in the Author's Syntax

From *The Whales' Song* by Dyan Sheldon:

There, enormous in the ocean, were the whales. They leapt and jumped and spun across the moon.

Example:

There, tiny in the nest, were the baby robins. They screeched and squirmed and opened their beaks wide for their dinner.

Try it out:

From *Crab Moon* by Ruth Horowitz:

Everywhere they looked, horseshoe crabs crowded and pushed, like restless cobblestones. Under the sandy shuffle of the surf, he could hear the clack of the crabs' shielded backs bumping and scraping together.

Example:

Everywhere they hiked, small animals scurried and hid like frightened children. In the fresh water stream, he could see the trouts' silver fins, glistening and reflecting in the sun.

Try it out:

From *Shortcut* by Donald Crews:

"I HEAR A TRAIN!"

Everybody stopped.

Everybody listened.

We all heard the train whistle.

Should we run ahead to the path home or back to the cut-off?

Example:

"I SEE THE OCEAN!"

Everybody clapped.

Everybody smiled.

We all saw the waves rolling toward the shore.

Should we dash across the sand to the water's edge
or stand here to delight in the sunrise?

Try It Out: