

Methods of translating

The old pond

Selected material

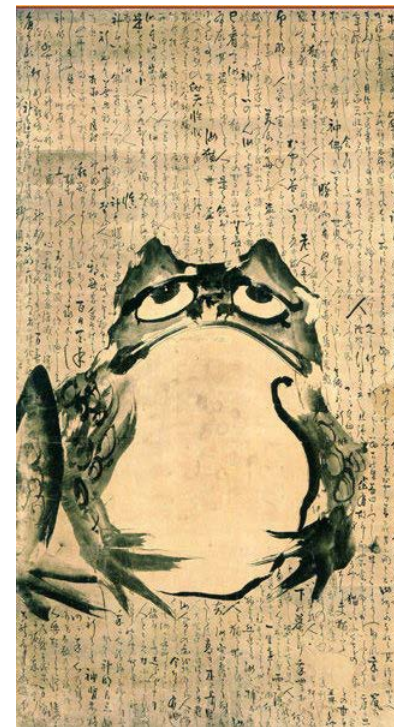
Haiku

The old pond-
a frog jumps in,
sound of water.

Translated by Robert Hass

Matsuo Bashō, the poet of this haiku, was a famous poet of the Edo period in Japan.

He is recognized as the greatest master of haiku or hokku. In 'The Old Pond,' also known as 'The Ancient Pond,' Bashō plays with the sound of the frog leaping in the old pond and imagery of that ancient place.



Selected material

Haiku

The old pond-
a frog jumps in,
sound of water.

Translated by Robert Hass

A haiku often features an image, or a pair of images, meant to depict the essence of a specific moment in time.

In its original Japanese form, the haiku is often divided into 17 mora (a Japanese unit of syllable weight) and arranged in a single vertical line. However, in English there is no exact equivalent to the mora unit. As a result, in English and other languages, haikus are most frequently adapted into three lines of verse, usually unrhymed, composed of five, seven, and five syllables.

The haiku remains a powerful form due to its economic use of language to evoke a specific mood or instance.

Rhythm & motion

Rhythm & motion

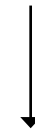
Haiku

The old pond-
a frog jumps in,
sound of water.

Translated by Robert Hass

“narrative”

silence



loud sound from the
the splash



water movement
sound

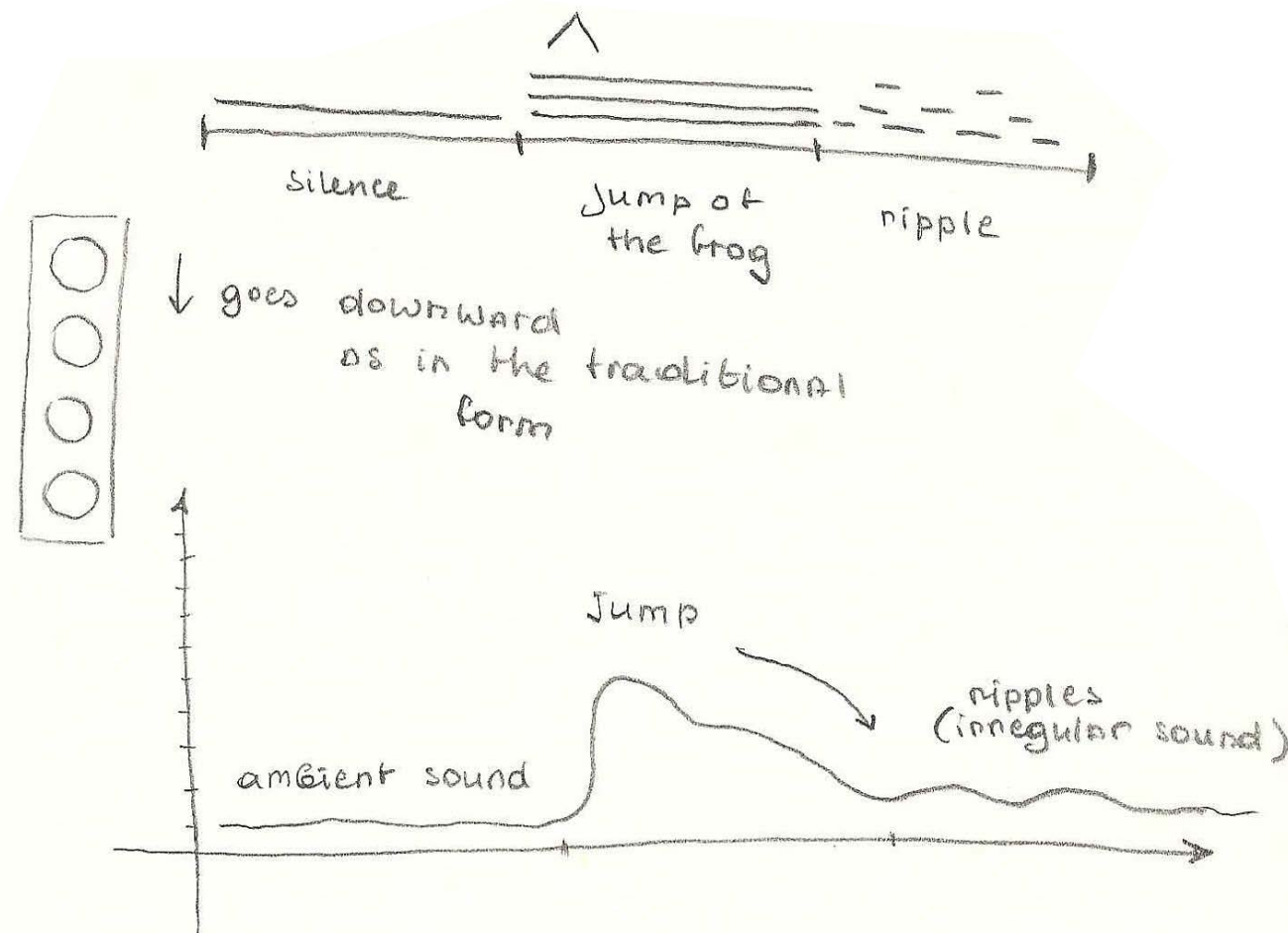
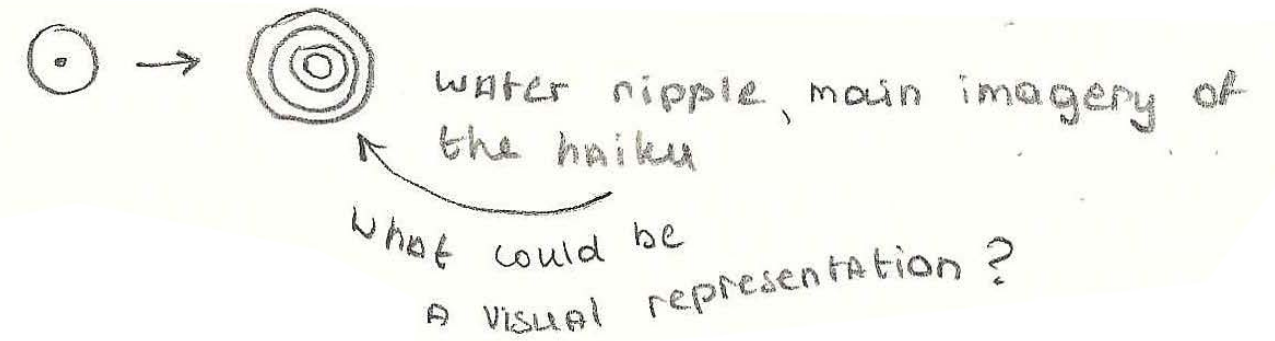
almost all sounds
originate from
engagement with
water

Rhythm & motion

How can the rhythmic motion of
haiku be translated into a visual or
spatial form?

Rhythm & motion

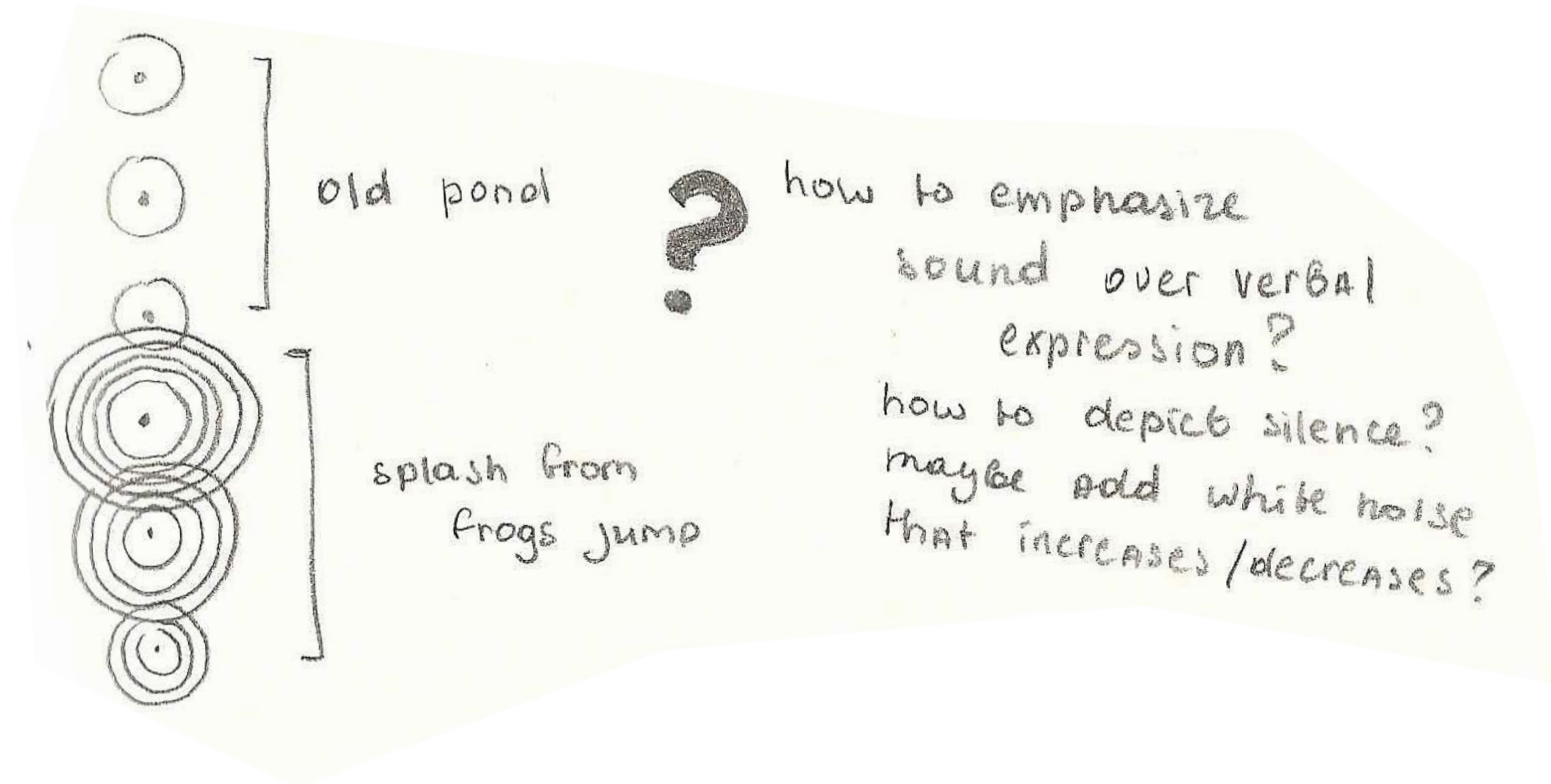
mora



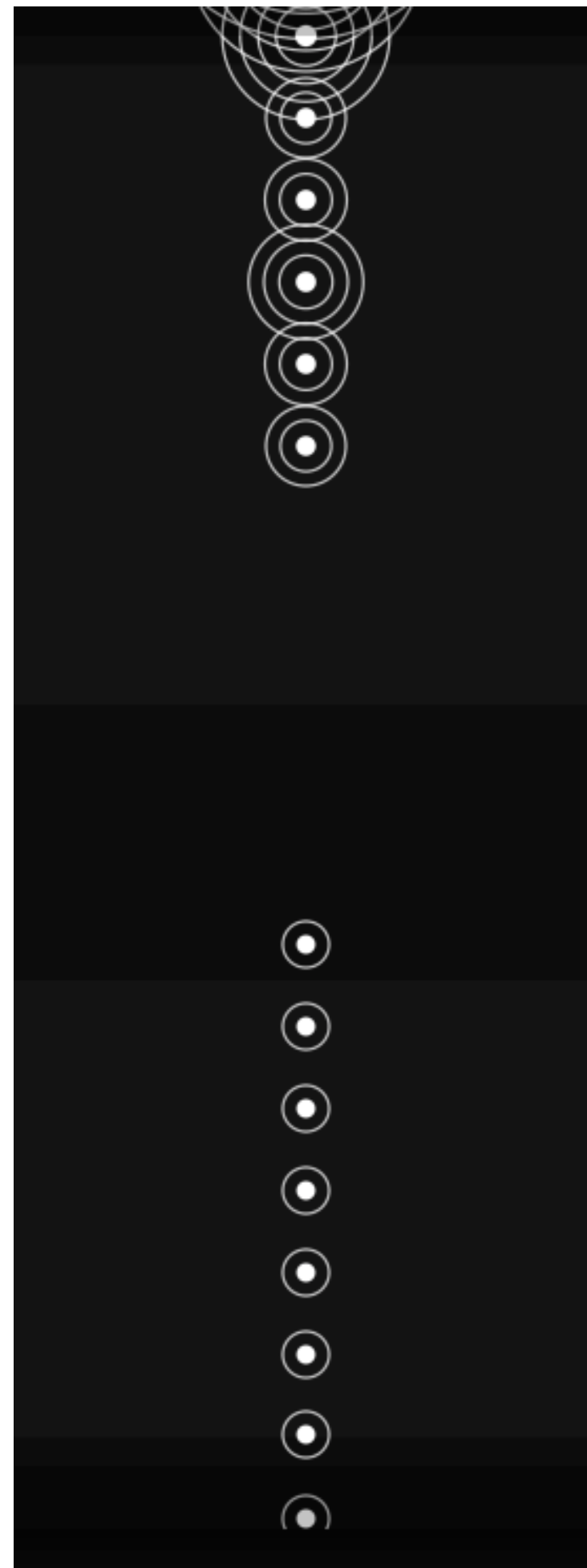
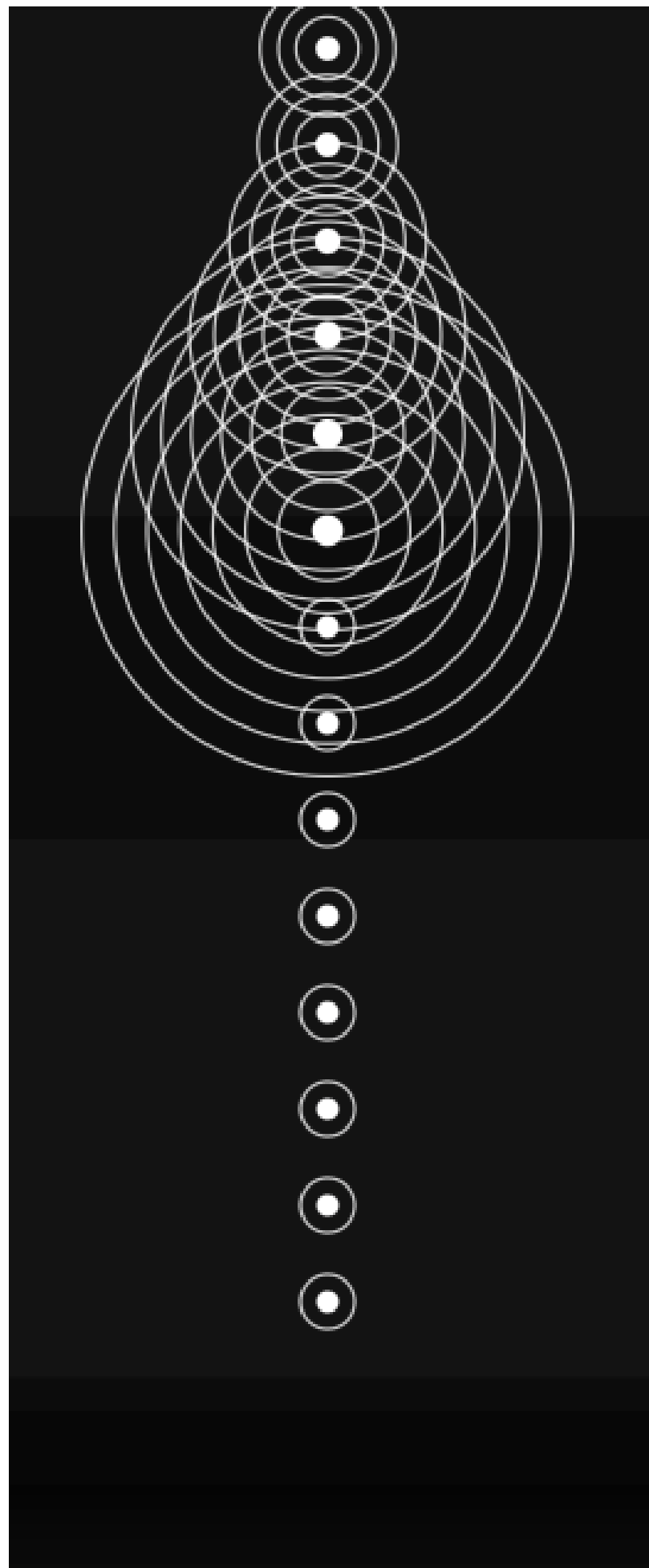
visual representation of motion in the haiku

- how to show continuity?
- transform from static to motion.

Rhythm & motion



Each circle represents one mora, so there are seventeen in total. They drift upward in a vertical flow. As they pass the center, the circles expand or contract in response to sound features from the haiku's imagined moment. The distance between the circles and their size changes suggest timing, and vibration rather than literal motion.



<https://editor.p5js.org/valerie.kvon/full/kBEb2uQNW>

Negative&Positive spaces

Negative&Positive spaces

Haiku

The old pond-
a frog jumps in,
sound of water.

Translated by Robert Hass

redundant & minimalistic



leaves room for
imagination



picturesque

designing around
what happens, not
just what happens

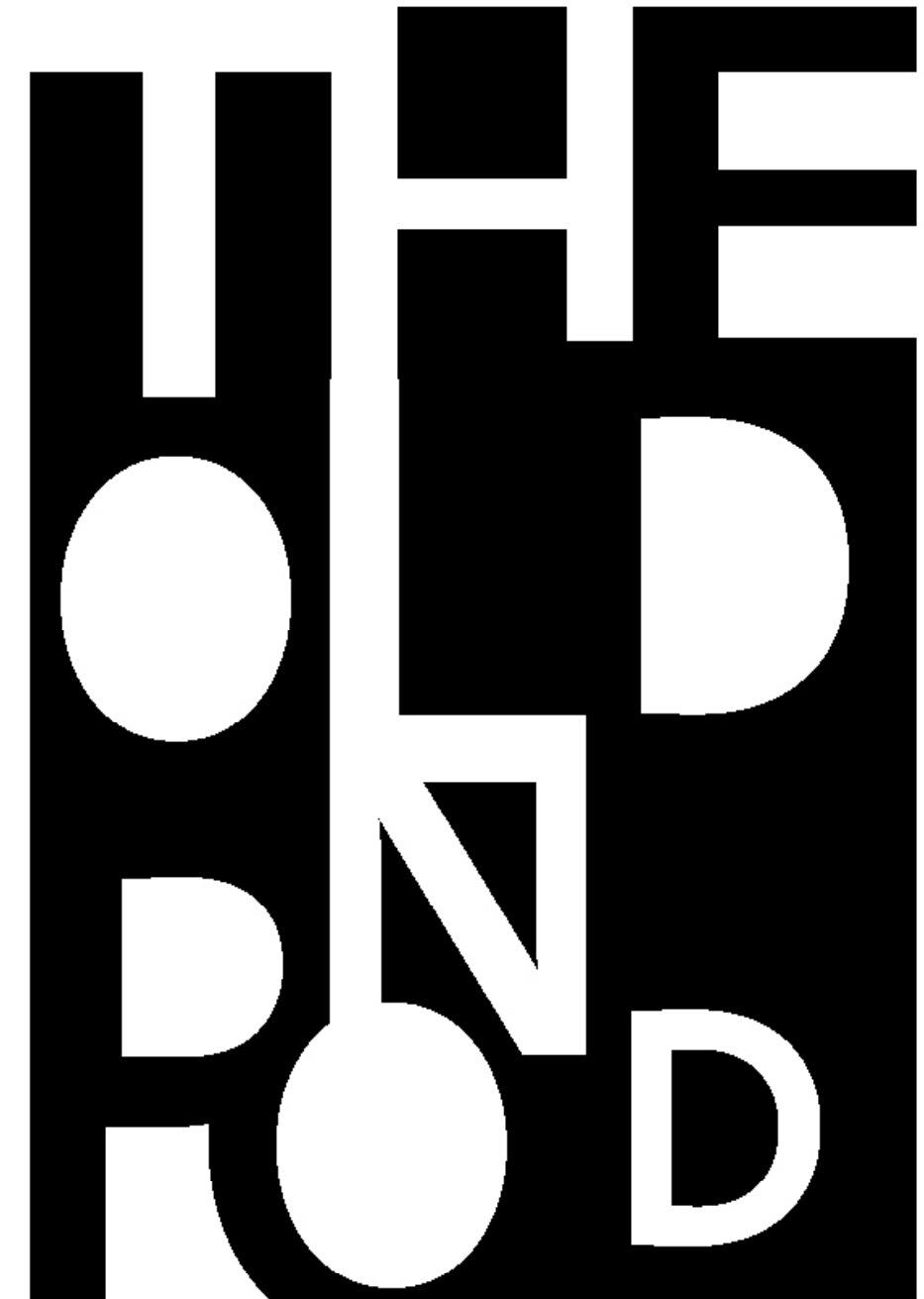
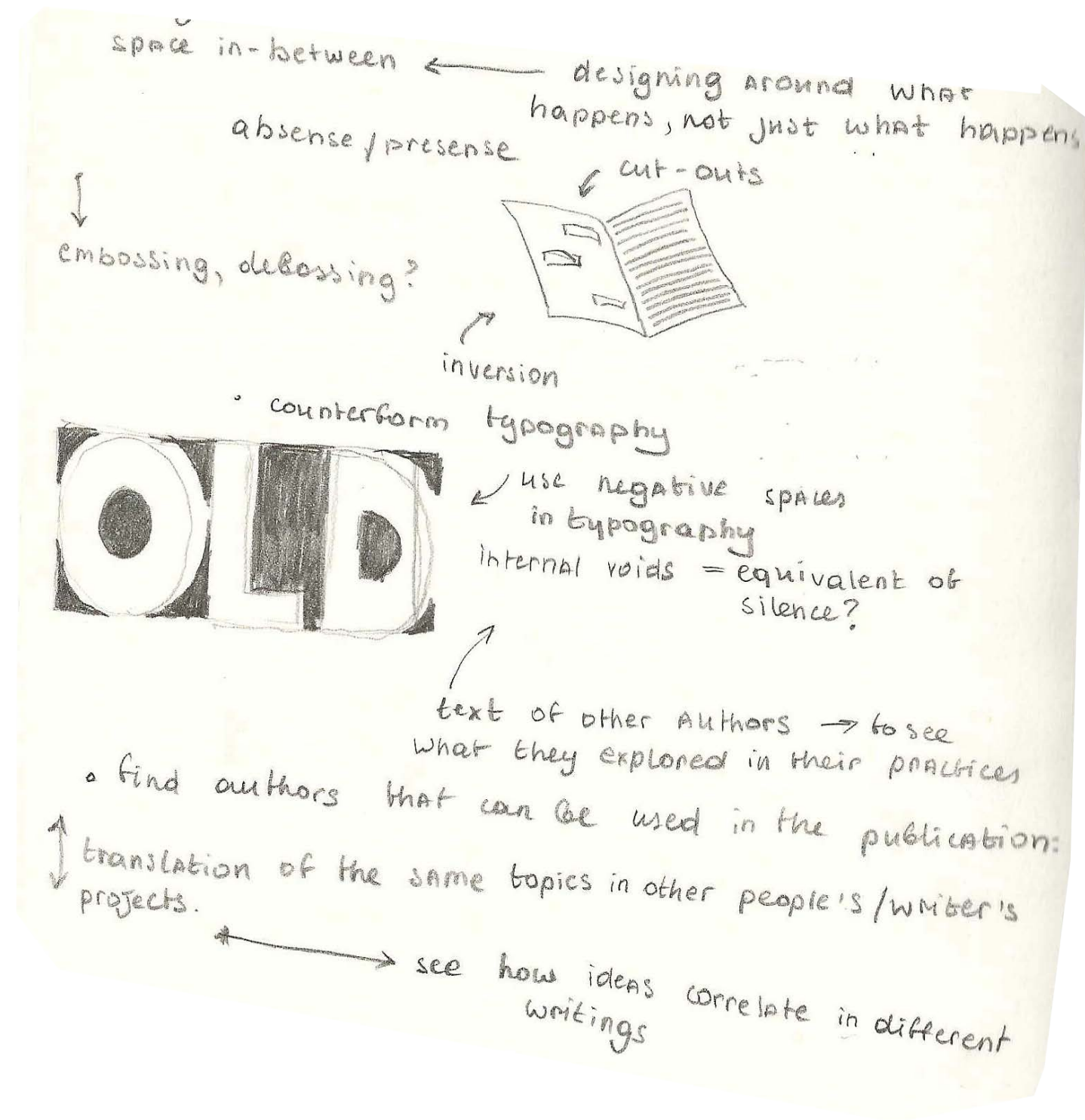
In japanese aesthetics, ma means the interval, the space in-between

It's about the space of attention between stillness and sound.

Negative&Positive spaces

How meaning can be translated
and revealed through relationships
between absence and presence,
between layers and reading?

Rhythm & motion



the haiku is collected through absence

Visual form&motion

Visual form&motion

Haiku

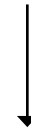
The old pond-
a frog jumps in,
sound of water.

Translated by Robert Hass

treat words as visual signs



text as from



concrete poetry

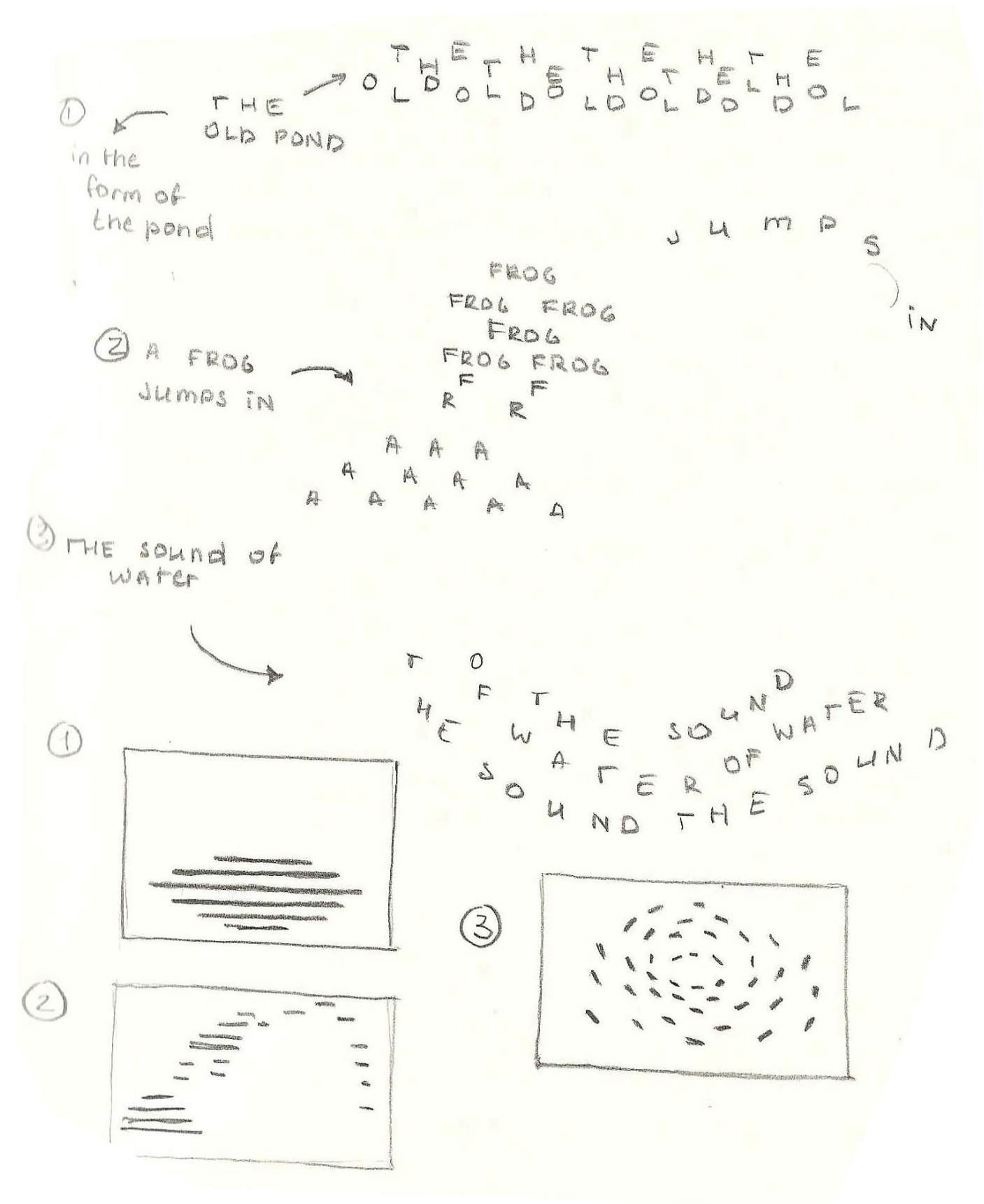
reconfiguration
through the
visual&spatial
language to
complement semantic
message of the text

How can the visual language
of concrete poetry be used to
translate haiku into a form where
text and meaning merge as one?

Visual form&motion

concrete poetry

is an arrangement of linguistic elements in which the typographical effect is more important in conveying meaning than verbal significance.



Visual form&motion

the old
pond the old pond old pond old pond old pond
old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond
old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond
old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old
pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old
pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond
old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old
pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond
pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond
old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old
pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old pond old
pond old pond

reflection on the meaning of the words+context

how to support meaning in redundancy

Visual form&motion

[illegible]

Visual form&motion

