

SUSAN GEROF SKY

Desert Poem

Wings over dry land  
Over wings, land dry  
Over land, wings dry  
Land over dry wings  
Land dry over wings  
Dry land wings over  
Dry wings land over  
Wings dry over land --  
Wings over dry land.

Desert Poem:			
Wings	over	dry	land
Over	wings,	land	dry
Over	land,	wings	dry
Land	over	dry	wings
Land	dry	over	wings
Dry	land	wings	over
Dry	wings	land	over
Wings	dry	over	land
(Wings	over	dry	land.)

Note: This is an example of a PH4 (“Plain Hunt on Four”) permutational poem, and is constructed using one of the basic permutation patterns from traditional bellringing. PH4 takes a string of four elements (here, four words, or in bellringing, four distinct bells) and swaps them pairwise (first the two outer pairs, then the one inner pair, recursively) to create eight permutations of the  $4!=24$  possible permutations before returning to the initial string.