There are many words in English that actually suggest the sound of the action they are referring to.

Here are just a few:

- Purr
- Growl
- Moo
- Squelch
- Drip
- Flop
- Slurp

The formal name for these sound words is **ONOMATOPOEIA**. They are words that imitate the sound they represent.

Poets use onomatopoeia or these sound words more than most people. There are many reasons for this: onomatopoeia can help to create a sense of place and setting, can convey a certain tone, can make the writing more vivid, and so on.
Hands off the tablecloth    don’t spit the pips
don’t rumble belly
don’t grab the grub
don’t slurp the soup
don’t crumble the crackers
don’t mash the mushrooms
don’t mush the potatoes
don’t stab the steak
don’t slap the saltshaker
don’t pill the bread
don’t swill the sauce
don’t ooze the mayonnaise
don’t slop the slaw
don’t splatter the ketchup
don’t gulp the olives

don’t finger the lettuce
don’t dribble the dressing
don’t comp the celery
don’t gobble the cobbler
don’t guzzle the fizz
swallow don’t wig
don’t smack your lips
pat with a napkin
daintily dab
quietly quaff
fastidious sip
and gracefully sample

Task 1: Look closely at the poem and underline the words that are remind you of the sounds heard at the table when people are eating.
THE WASHING MACHINE.

It goes fwunkety,
then slunkety,
as the washing goes around.

The water spluncheses,
and it sluncheses
as the washing goes around.

As you pick it out it splocheses,
and it flocheses,
as the washing goes around.

But at the end it schlopperies,
and then flopgeries,
as the washing stops going around.

Task 2: The poet has made up eight sound-words of his own. There are two in each stanza – find them and write them down on your white board.
Task 3: Now think of the sound words that would represent the following objects and actions.

1. Someone walking on broken glass
2. A vacuum-cleaner sucking up the dirt
3. A fisherman throwing out his rod.
4. Sausages cooking in a pan.
5. Chalk on a blackboard.
6. A fire burning briskly.
7. A kettle boiling.
8. A thirsty cat drinking milk.
9. Someone eating crisps with their mouth open.
10. Hitting a tennis ball.
11. Someone walking through thick mud.
12. A rocket taking off.
Task 4: Now try writing your own I like... poem. Look at the poem below for ideas.

NOISE

By Jessie Pope

I like noise.
The whoop of a boy, the thud of a hoof,
The rattle of rain on a galvanised roof,
The hubbub of traffic, the roar of a train,
The throb of machinery numbing the brain,
The switching of wires in an overhead tram,
The rush of the wind, a door on the slam,
The boom of the thunder, the crash of the waves,
The din of a river that races and raves,
The crack of a rifle, the clang of a pail,
The strident tattoo of a swift-slapping sail—
From any old sound that the silence destroys
Arises a gamut of soul-stirring joys.
I like noise.
Ideas for an “I Like...” poem:

I like sounds.
The whistle of the wind
The _______ of ________
The _______ of ________
The _______ of ________
The _______ of ________
The _______ of ________
I like sounds.

I like sport/music/school/holidays/ etc.