2D Project 2 Week 1

What is the rhyme or series of rhymes that you have chosen?

I have decided on a poem by Margaret Atwood, titled "It Is Dangerous to Read Newspapers".

I chose this poem because it was one of the poems about war that I studied before in Literature class and it has a profound impact on me. It was written in respons to the Vietnam war, yet its message its universal. I can strongly relate to it because I feel that reading the newspaper desensitizes me as a person. If I were to read in the newspaper about people being killed today I would feel nothing-even though I should. The people killed are just a statistic to me. And that's because I read about this everyday and I hear about it. I want to be able to feel something again and do something about what is happening , but I can't. I want to create an awareness that we can easily desensitize ourselves as human beings when we merely read about a tragedy in the newspaper, feel a pang of sadness then do nothing but turn to the next page.

What is your concept?

I feel that the title itself is ambiguous and endless interpretations which I can translate visually. I was highly inspired by Constructivism, a movement which originated in Russia, using art for propaganda- purely for social purposes. My concept for this project would be to convince people of the underlying message and that in a way, it IS dangerous to read newspapers.

"Published in 1968, "It is Dangerous to Read Newspapers" portrays a reader haunted by the atrocities reported in the news. Literate, the reader not only cannot escape the news, but likely experiences a responsibility to read them, to inform herself, and even attempts to reach her own readers so that she may make the world a better place. Yet all her attempts are futile. She cannot shake of the sense of responsibility and guilt, and although we may find it difficult to relate to her uncompromising verdict, "I am the cause", we can certainly understand that the mere act of reading the news — of just sitting there, "quietly as a fuse", witnessing the horrors of the world from our living rooms — has a touch of the absurd, the more so in this day an age when news has become an entertainment commodity and each war comes with its own jingle." (An analysis taken from Legendumst)-
https://researchist.wordpress.com/2009/03/04/it-is-dangerous-to-read-newspapers/

A challenge I anticipate with my concept being 'propaganda' is conveying the social message in an illustrative visual form. That is, using only images and no typograpy. However, I am extremely excited about this and cannot wait to start creating my art!

How can Hannah Hoch's work and El Lissitzky's work help with your conceptualization of your rhyme in terms of:

1. Concept?
-El Lissitzky: Creating art for a 'greater good' to convey a message, not merely for the sake of art (which is interestingly opposite to Sol LeWitt's concept!)
-Hannah Hoch: Similarly, Hoch used her collages to speak about gender issues and reconstructed the way people viewed women. Thus, I'd like to give people a fresh perspective on how they see newspapers- a common, harmless everyday object that you read everyday, that you use to wrap your vases in etc.

2. Composition?
-El Lissitzky: His minimalistic layout is something that although looks simple, is hard to recreate in a purposeful way. In this project I would like to create a piece where a minimalist layout would be more effective as compared to Hoch's busy collages which say many different things.
-Hannah Hoch: Her images have a paper-cutout quality to them, and her layering of these images give her artwork a cut and stick feel to them. I'd definitely like to use the collage structure in my work.

3. Style?
- El Lissitzky: Simple lines, use of simple shapes/geometry as symbolism
- Hannah Hoch: Personally, I am a fan of collages, and I particularly like how Hoch's artwork is like an abstract collage. Her use of metaphorical imagery is something that I will definitely use- and also this may help me with my problem of not being able to use text!