

Poetry



What is poetry?

- Poetry is a type of literature that uses the sounds, rhythms, and meanings of words to describe the world in striking imaginative ways.

Elements of Poetry

Lines and Stanzas

1. Poetry is divided into **lines**, or groups of words.
2. Lines are organized in units of meaning called **stanzas**. The lines in a stanza work together to express one key idea.
3. A blank line, called a **stanza break**, signals that one stanza has ended and a new stanza is beginning.

Lines and Stanzas - Example

I Love To Write Poems (title)

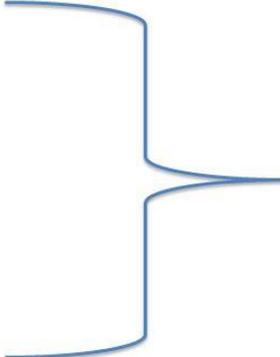
- (First Stanza)
- I love to write Day and night
- What would my heart do
- But cry, sigh and be blue
- If I could not write

A line in the poem



- (Second Stanza)
- Writing feels good
- And I know it should
- Who could have knew
- That what I do
- Is write, write, write-
- Unknown Author

A stanza



Elements of Poetry

Refrains and Repetition

1. **Refrain** – a line or group of lines that is repeated at regular intervals in a poem...reminds readers of a key idea...often repeated at the end of each stanza.
2. **Variations** – changing one or more words with each repetition

Refrain and Repetition Examples

Repetition Example

Example of a poem with a refrain:

The cat so silent
Lay curled up on the rug
The fire a blaze
The room so snug.

Purring, purring
Quiet and still
Purring, purring
Content from his fill.

Tatters the cat
Big, fat cat.

He had just eaten
A dinner of fish
What a treat to have
Filling up his dish.

Purring, purring
Quiet and still
Purring, purring
Content from his fill.

Tatters the cat
Big, fat cat.

No more cold for the day
He was in for the night
Fun he had had
When the day was light.

Purring, purring
Quiet and still
Purring, purring
Content from his fill.

Tatters the cat
Big, fat cat.

The Sun

Some one tossed a pancake,
A buttery, buttery, pancake.
Someone tossed a pancake
And flipped it up so high,
That now I see the pancake,
The buttery, buttery pancake,
Now I see that pancake
Stuck against the sky.

by Sandra Liatsos

Cruising

I love cruising.
I love the way the dolphins
Swim against the boat.
Splash, splash, splash.

I love cruising,
I love the way
the food tastes.
Yum, yum, yum!

I love cruising,
I love the way
the horn goes
tooty toot.

by Joey Q

Elements of Poetry - Sound Devices

Rhythm and Meter

1. **Rhythm** – a beat, created by stressed and unstressed syllables in words
2. **Meter** – a pattern of rhythm
3. **Feet** – units of stressed and unstressed syllables...Meter is measured in feet.

Examples of Rhythm and Meter

Stressed syllables (´)

Unstressed syllables (˘)

Feet are divided by slashes (/) or lines (|)

Just sit | right back | and you'll hear | a tale,
a tale | of a fate | ful trip.
That star | ted from | this tro | pic port,
aboard | this ti | ny ship.

Elements of Poetry - Sound Devices

Rhyme

1. **Rhyme** – the repetition of vowel and consonant sounds at the ends of words

For example: **tin** and **pin** **hand** and **sand**

2. **Rhyme scheme** – when rhymes follow a particular pattern

Example of Rhyme and Rhyme Scheme

How doth the little **crocodile** A

Improve his shining **tail**, B

And pour the waters of the **Nile** A

On every golden **scale!** B

Additional Sound Devices

1. **Alliteration** – is the repetition of consonant sounds in the beginnings of words, as in *slippery slope*.
2. **Repetition** – is the use of any element of language – a sound, word, or phrase – more than once.
3. **Onomatopoeia** – is the use of words that imitate sounds. splat, hiss, gurgle

Poetic Language

Shade of Meaning

1. **Denotation** – dictionary definition of a word
2. **Connotation** – consists of the ideas and feelings that a word brings to mind
 - canine → dog
 - pooch → **friendly, lovable** dog
 - mongrel → **mean, ugly** mixed-breed dog

Poetic Language

3. **Imagery** – descriptions that appeal to the five senses...Imagery helps poets convey what they see, hear, smell, taste, or touch.

Example:

Taste the green in the lettuce,
Hear the crunch of its freshness,
Smell its earth perfume.

Poetic Language

Figurative Language – language that is not meant to be taken literally

3 Common Types

1. **Simile** – uses the word *like* or *as* to compare two seemingly unlike things
2. **Metaphor** – describes one thing as if it were something else
3. **Personification** – human qualities are given to nonhuman objects

Examples of Figurative Language

Simile

His hands were as cold as steel.

The pillow is like a cloud.

Metaphor

My chores were a mountain waiting to be climbed.

Personification

The fingertips of the rain tapped a steady beat on the windowpane.

Forms of Poetry

1. **Narrative** – tells a story in verse
2. **Haiku** – three-line Japanese form that describes something in nature. The first and third lines each have five syllables, and the second line has seven.
3. **Free Verse** – poetry defined by its lack of structure...It has no regular meter, rhyme, fixed line length, or specific stanza pattern

Narrative Poem Example

The Walrus and the Carpenter

THE sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might;
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright--
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done--
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun!"

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky;
No birds were flying overhead--
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand--
"If this were only cleared away,"
They said, "it would be grand!"

Haiku Example

Remember: (about nature)

1st line – 5 syllables

2nd line – 7 syllables

3rd line – 5 syllables



HAIKU

**Butterflies are cool
in the big, huge, green forest.
They fly up so high!**

Free Verse

Example:

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

By--Langston Hughes

Forms of Poetry

4. **Lyric** – expresses the thoughts and feelings of a single speaker, often in highly musical verse.
5. **Ballads** – songlike poems that tell stories...often deal with adventure or romance.
6. **Concrete** – shaped to look like their subjects...The poet arranges the lines to create a picture on the page.

Lyric Poem Example

The Exile

by Lucy Maud Montgomery

We told her that her far off shore was bleak and dour to view, And that her sky was dull and mirk while ours was smiling blue.

She only sighed in answer, "It is even as ye say, But oh, the ragged splendor when the sun bursts through the gray!"

We brought her dew-wet roses from our fairest summer bowers, We bade her drink their fragrance, we heaped her lap with flowers; She only said, with eyes that yearned, "Oh, if ye might have brought The pale, unscented blossoms by my father's lowly cot!"

We bade her listen to the birds that sang so madly sweet, The lyric of the laughing stream that dimpled at our feet; "But, O," she cried, "I weary for the music wild that stirs When keens the mournful western wind among my native firs!"

We told her she had faithful friends and loyal hearts anear, We prayed her take the fresher loves, we prayed her be of cheer; "Oh, ye are kind and true," she wept, "but woe's me for the grace Of tenderness that shines upon my mother's wrinkled face!"

Ballad Example

Lord Byron

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

Concrete Poem Example

Dusk
Above the
water hang the
loud
flies
Here
O so
gray
then
What A pale signal will appear
When Soon before its shadow fades
Where Here in this pool of opened eye
In us No Upon us As at the very edges
of where we take shape in the dark air
this object bares its image awakening
ripples of recognition that will
brush darkness up into light
even after this bird this hour both drift by atop the perfect sad instant now
already passing out of sight
toward yet-untroubled reflection
this image bears its object darkening
into memorial shades Scattered bits of
light No of water Or something across
water Breaking up No Being regathered
soon Yet by then a swan will have
gone Yes out of mind into what
vast
pale
hush
of a
place
past
sudden dark as
if a swan
sang

Forms of Poetry

7. **Limericks** – humorous, rhyming five-line poems with a specific rhythm pattern and rhyme scheme
8. **Sonnet** - a poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line.

Limerick Example

The Singing Bird

By Kaitlyn Guenther

I once knew a bird who was in love
On Valentine's he would sing to a dove
He would sing until dawn
And collapse on the lawn
When the dove came and gave him a shove



Sonnet Example

Sonnet 71: No longer mourn for me when

No longer mourn for me when I am dead
Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled
From this vile world with vilest worms to dwell.
Nay if you read this line, remember not
The hand that writ it, for I love you so
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot
If thinking on me then should make you woe.

O, if, I say, you look upon this verse,
When I perhaps compounded am with clay,
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse,
But let your love even with my life decay,
Lest the wise world should look into your moan
And mock you with me after I am gone.

William Shakespeare