

Blank Verse

Definition

- A blank verse poem does not rhyme but has a regular rhythm.
 - It is often unrhymed iambic pentameter.
 - Blank verse is the most common type of poetry in the English language because people often naturally speak in unrhymed iambic pentameter.
 - It is used often in dramatic poetry. William Shakespeare wrote most of his very famous dramatic plays using blank verse. Some of these include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*. Shakespeare loved blank verse. John Milton also used blank verse in *Paradise Lost* (1667).

Examples

1. Furball Friend

*Sweet pet by day, hunter by night. She sleeps,
she eats, she plays. My feet, caught in white paws.
She's up the fence, watching her prey - a bird.
Poor thing, better run quick, 'cause watch, she'll pounce!
She'll sweetly beg for fuss, but don't be fooled.
'Cause one minute she'll purr and smile, then snap!
She'll spit and hiss - and oh - surprise! A mouse.
He's dead. A gift. Retracts her claws. Miaow!
Figure of eight between my legs, looks up
at me and purrs. The sound pulls my heartstrings.
Her big blue eyes like dinner plates - so cute.
Cunning she is, she knows I can't resist.
Curling up tight, we sleep entwined as one.
Despite her quirks, I would not change a claw
of her. Cheeky Sammy: my snow-white queen.*

2. "Indeed this counselor / Is now most still, most secret, and most grave, / Who was in life a foolish prating knave" (Hamlet Act III, Scene 4).

Helpful Link

<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/cliffsnotes/literature/what-is-blank-verse-and-how-does-shakespeare-use-it>