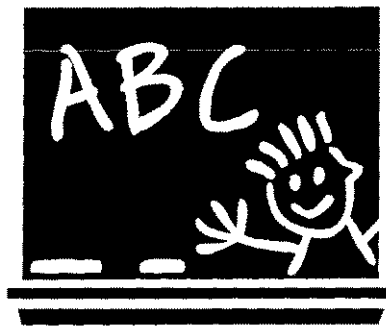


Poetry

Writing Packet



What is POETRY?

- Poetry Looks Different - it is written in lines or stanzas (groups of lines).
- Poetry Speaks to the Heart - you can like it for what it says and how it makes you feel.
- Poetry Says a Lot in a Few Words - it uses sensory details describing sights, sounds, smells, tastes and other physical feelings.
- Poetry Pleases the Ear - poets carefully arrange words so certain sounds stand out perhaps by rhyming or repeating vowel or consonant sounds.

Here are several types of TRADITIONAL POETRY:

- 1) BALLAD: A poem that tells a story with four line stanzas; the second and fourth lines rhyme.

There was a little turtle.

He lived in a box.

He swam in a puddle.

He climbed on the rocks.

- 2) CINQUAIN (Sin quan): A poem with a certain number of syllables or words in each line.

	Syllable Cinquain	Word
Line 1:	Title (2 syllables)	(1 word)
Line 2:	Description of title (4 syllables)	(2 words)
Line 3:	Action about the title (6 syllables)	(3 words)
Line 4:	Feeling about the title (8 syllables)	(4 words)
Line 5:	Synonym for the title (2 syllables)	(1 word)

3) COUPLET: A two line verse that usually rhymes and expresses one thought

4) FREE VERSE: Poetry that doesn't include patterned rhyme or rhythm

5) HAIKU: Japanese poetry about nature that is three lines long

First Line: 5 syllables

Second Line: 7 syllables

Third Line: 5 syllables

When writing poetry, you can use special comparisons called ***Figures of Speech***.

Some examples are:

- Simile-comparison using like and unlike things and the words like or as

Example: Coat hooks hold winter hats like bare branches
hold old nests

- Metaphor-comparison without using like or as

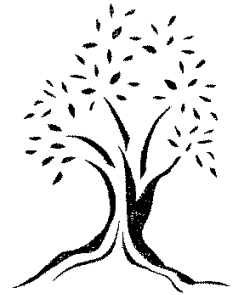
Example: The world is a stage.

- Personification-describing something not human with human qualities

Example: My eggs stared back like sick eyes.

- Hyperbole exaggerated - comparison, which can be funny

Example: It was so hot we melted!



To make poetry pleasing to the ear, you can use:



1. **Alliteration**-repeating of beginning consonant sounds

Example: Bounce, Bump, Ball

2. **Assonance**-repeating of vowels in words

Example: Rain, makes, pavement, wavy.

3. **Consonance**-repeating of consonant sounds anywhere in words

Example: I'm Zack, the guy with the wacky snack!

4. **End Rhyme**-rhyming of words at the end of two or more lines

Example: The streets that once glittered with gold,
now are barren, dusty and cold.

5. **Internal Rhyme**-rhyming of words in the middle of lines

Example: When the batter struck out, a pout filled his mouth.

6. **Onomatopoeia**-the use of words whose sounds make you think of their meanings

Example: Buzz, thump, snap

7. **Rhythm**-the way a poem flows from one idea to the next by accenting specific syllables

Some other types of poetry are: Limerick, Lyric, Quatrain, Elegy, Epic, Ode and Sonnet. There are many other types of poetry, which you can invent. Have fun!

Cinquain

By Brenda B. Covert
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¹ American poet Adelaide Crapsey created the cinquain[sing-KANE]-based on the Japanese haiku- around one hundred years ago. She was single, and her poetry wasn't published until after her death. Much of her poetry pertains to death. Her preoccupation probably had much to do with the disease that eventually killed her at age 37. A famous American poet named Carl Sandburg wrote a cinquain in her honor, ensuring that we would remember her poetic efforts.

² This form of poetry is written using a pattern rather than rhyme and rhythm. "Cinq" [pronounced SINK] is French for the number 5. A cinquain, then, is a poem of five lines! Each line follows a specific pattern.

Line 1- one word title

Line 2- two words that describe the subject of the title

Line 3- three action words related to the subject (think **verbs**)

Line 4- 4 or 5 words that express your feelings about the subject (Not a complete sentence)

Line 5- the same word as in Line 1, a synonym, or a similar word.

³ This is easy! To write a cinquain, all you have to do is remember these numbers:

1
2
3
4-5
1

⁴ Here is an example of a cinquain. Note that the first and last lines are the same thing; the last line is specific, where the first line was general.

Tree
Sturdy, Tall
Climbing, swinging, playing
Fun among the branches
Maple

Couplets

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¹ A couplet [CUP-let] is the simplest form of poetry. Do you see the word "couple" in couplet? A couple is two of something. A couplet is a poem made of two lines of rhyming poetry that usually have the same meter. There are no rules about length or rhythm. Two words that rhyme can be called a couplet. Do you know what the pioneers ate when they got desperate?

Snake

Steak

² Seriously though, most poems will consist of more than two words. The rule to remember is that each line in a couplet has an end rhyme. We can mark end rhymes alphabetically to keep track of the rhyming pattern. For instance, look at this couplet:

My friend has eyes like mud.

He always chews his cud.

³ The words *mud* and *cud* are end rhymes. We'll use the letter "A" to mark the rhyme pattern. We can string couplets together to make a longer poem, so now I'll join that couplet with another:

His hair looks like burnt hay.

At full moons he will bay.

Limericks

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¹ If it's humor that you crave, you will probably find it in a limerick! Edward Lear popularized limericks in the 1800's when he published his "Book of Nonsense," which was filled with silly limericks he had written for the children of a friend. We know this form of poetry dates back to the 1700's at least, because the nursery rhyme, "Hickory, Dickory, Dock," was first printed in 1744; it follows the rhyming pattern of limericks. There is a city in Ireland named Limerick. Perhaps this form of poetry was born there, or maybe the city's name was used in the first poem.

² A limerick is a five-line poem made up of one couplet and one triplet. A couplet is a two-line rhymed poem. A triplet is a three-line rhymed poem. (I know, you thought a triplet was one of three children born to the same mother at the same time. That's true too.) The poem begins with the first two lines of the triplet, followed by the couplet, and finished with the final line of the triplet. The rhyme pattern looks like this:

a

a

b

b

a

³ Lines 1, 2, and 5 contain 3 stressed syllables, while lines 3 and 4 contain just 2 stressed syllables. Counting stressed and unstressed syllables, each of the triplet lines will have 8 or 9 syllables, and each of the couplet lines will have 5 or 6.

⁴ The last line of a well-written limerick contains the punch line, or joke, of the poem. In spite of that, many of Lear's limericks simply repeated the rhyme from the first line. He was known to sometimes create a nonsense word to fit the rhyme. This is known as "pulling a Lear."

Haiku

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¹ If you can count syllables, you can write a haiku. This is one of the easiest types of poetry to learn to write. It doesn't rhyme, and it isn't supposed to have a title. The hard part is deciding which words to use!

² The modern haiku was fashioned by a Japanese poet named Masaoka Shiki in the late 1800's. He created this new form of poetry to present realistic portrayals of nature and life. Tradition insists that a clue to the season be included. This poem is made up of three lines only. There are only 17 syllables altogether. The pattern of syllables goes like this:

five syllables
seven syllables
five syllables

³ The tricky part is to find a way to express yourself using few words. Seventeen syllables don't allow room for lots of details or unnecessary words.

Yesterday I ate	5 - Yes/ter/day/I/ate
breakfast and grabbed my backpack	7 - break/fast/and/grabbed/my/back/pack
to hurry to school	5 - To/hur/ry/to/school

⁴ From the syllable illustration on the right you can see that I used the five-seven-five pattern. I wrote a complete sentence. You can also see that I didn't have anything interesting to share. The "haiku rules" call for a mention of the season too, but I ran out of syllables! I'll have to try a little harder this time.

Pancakes with syrup	5 - Pan/cakes/with/sy/rup
Winter's chill delayed awhile	7 - Win/ter's/chill/de/layed/a/while
The bus driver honks	5 - The/bus/dri/ver/honks

⁵ If the poet has done her work, you can probably imagine yourself enjoying a steaming plate of pancakes, when you are interrupted by a honk that calls you out into the cold weather. By using a few concrete details and leaving out unimportant words, we can create a word-picture and a related feeling!

You Can Write a Ballad

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¹ You may have heard of a ballad; it's a song that tells a story. This lesson isn't about that kind of ballad. There is a type of poem called a ballad. It tells a story, but it's not set to music. Any poem that tells a story is called a narrative poem. A ballad is made up of strong rhythm and rhyme. It often includes lines that are repeated. If you have a story to tell, you may enjoy telling it in the form of a ballad.

² How can you know when a poem is a ballad? It will have rhythm, rhyme, and repetition. It will normally have some dialogue within the poem. A ballad's stanzas each have four lines. The first and third lines have four beats; the second and fourth lines have three. The usual rhyme scheme is abcb, but abab is also acceptable.

³ Here is an excerpt from the "Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall. This poem was based on the bombing of an Alabama church in 1963 in which four girls died. The words that define the beat are bolded for your benefit.

⁴

For **when** she **heard** the **explosion**,
Her **eyes** grew **wet** and **wild**.
She **raced** through the **streets** of **Birmingham**
Calling for her **child**.

She **clawed** through **bits** of **glass** and **brick**,
Then **lifted out** a **shoe**.
"O, **here's** the **shoe** my **baby wore**,
But, **baby, where** are **you**?"

⁵ The complete poem is eight stanzas long. Each stanza has four lines. In this excerpt, the rhyme scheme is abcb. The stanzas follow the 4-3-4-3 rhythm. There are two lines that are spoken. If you read the entire poem, you will find lines that repeat in several of the other stanzas.

Free Verse

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¹ Many people consider free verse to be a modern form of poetry. The truth is that it has been around for several centuries; only in the 20th century did it become one of the most popular forms of poetry. Its popularity stems from the belief that free verse is poetry without rules; after all, it doesn't rhyme, and it doesn't have a meter. However, what separates poetry from prose is the arrangement of *carefully chosen* words into verses.

² There's more to free verse than a sudden thought recorded on paper. It's not that no rules apply to free verse; rather, the poet makes up the rules for each poem! Free verse *done well* will have rhythm, though it may not have a regular beat. A variety of poetic devices may be woven throughout the piece. There may be patterns of sound and repetition. Free verse can be compared to a song that doesn't rhyme. There is still a lyric quality to it.

³ It may be more difficult to write free verse than any other form, simply because the poet has more decisions to make. With a haiku, you know the exact measurement of the poem; your task is easily defined. You need only follow the rules of the pattern. With free verse, there is no pattern until the poet creates one!

⁴ Without set rules, you are *free* to decide where to break your poem into stanzas. You may arrange your poem in stanzas of two or more lines. You may break at each new thought, much like paragraphs. You may break stanzas in mid-sentence to draw attention to a specific word or phrase. Like American poet Walt Whitman, you might break stanzas at the point where one would take a breath, were he or she reading aloud. It's up to you.

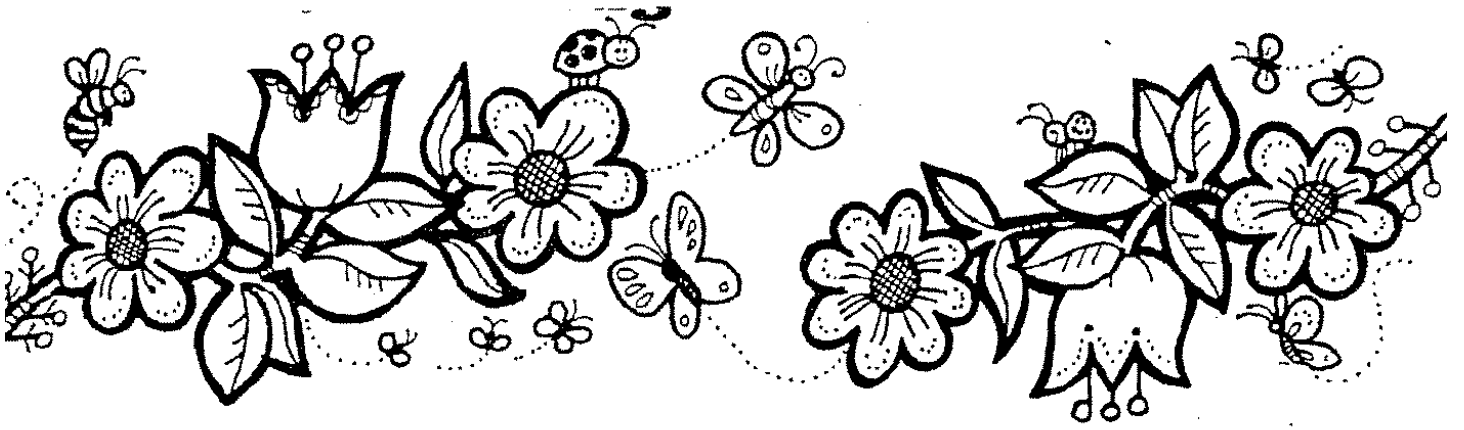
⁵ As we try our hand at writing free verse, we will begin by writing our thoughts all together, without stanzas. Then we can go back and edit the words, removing unnecessary ones or choosing more powerful synonyms, and working to cut and shape the poem. We'll know we are through when we're satisfied with the message and the shape of our poem.

⁶ First, let's analyze this short free verse poem.

I Dream'd in a Dream by Walt Whitman

I DREAM'D in a dream I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the
whole of the rest of the earth,
I dream'd that was the new city of Friends,
Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust love, it led
the rest,
It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city,
And in all their looks and words.

⁷ Walt Whitman is gone; he cannot tell us what this poem means. That is something we can only guess. So here's a thought to ponder—is this poem about a real city, or is it about friendship? How would you interpret this poem?



A series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 18 evenly spaced lines that span the width of the page.