

Lyric — poetry that expresses the poet’s thoughts and feelings. It does not tell a story, as narrative poetry does, but creates a mood through vivid images. It uses very descriptive language and often the lyric poem has a “musical” quality. Often sensory images are used. Lyric poems can be made up of even stanzas or uneven stanzas. The majority of poetry is lyrical; however, there are also many subcategories of lyrical poetry, such as the list poem.

Maya Angelou’s poem “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me” could also be considered a lyric poem as it details the feelings of the speaker.

Harlem Night Song

Langston Hughes

Come,
Let us roam the night
together
Singing.

I love you.

Across
The Harlem roof-tops
Moon is shining.
Night sky is blue.
Stars are great drops
Of golden dew.

Down the street
A band is playing.

I love you.

Come,
Let us roam the night together
Singing.

Notice :
There is a
rhyme but
not a
pattern.
This is
called
uneven
rhyme.
What else
do you
see?

Four Little Foxes By Lew Sarrett

Speak gently, Spring, and make no
sudden sound ^a

for in my windy valley yesterday I
found ^a

New born foxes squirming on the
ground ^a

Speak gently.

Walk softly, March, forbear the bitter
blow, ^b

Her feet within a trap, her blood upon
the snow, ^b

The four little foxes saw their mother
go ^b

Walk softly.

Go lightly, Spring, oh give them no
alarm; ^c

When I covered them with boughs to
shelter them from harm ^c

The thin blue foxes suckled at my arm ^c
Go Lightly.

Step softly, March, with your rampant
hurricane ^d

Nuzzling one another and whimp'ring
with pain, ^d

The new little foxes are shiv'ring in the
rain ^d

Step softly.

The poem below is written as a metaphor. The poet describes the sea in comparison to a dog. Notice the strong figurative language and the changing rhyme pattern. What else do you notice about the poem?

“The Sea” by James Reeves

The sea is a hungry dog,
Giant and grey.
He rolls on the beach all day.
With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws
Hour upon hour he gnaws
The rumbling, tumbling stones,
And 'Bones, bones, bones, bones! '
The giant sea-dog moans,
Licking his greasy paws.

And when the night wind roars
And the moon rocks in the stormy cloud,
He bounds to his feet and snuffs and sniffs,
Shaking his wet sides over the cliffs,
And howls and hollos long and loud.

But on quiet days in May or June,
When even the grasses on the dune
Play no more their reedy tune,
With his head between his paws
He lies on the sandy shores,
So quiet, so quiet, he scarcely snores.

HOMEWORK: Locate one other lyrical poem in your literature book or from one of the classroom poetry books.

Complete the S.T.A.R.S. form on the poem you selected. This can be found in SHOWBIE or the Poetry Page.

Also be able to tell me if there is a rhyme pattern for your poem. If there is, what is it? List any figurative language as well. You can add this information right on the S.T.A.R.S. document. You will submit the completed S.T.A.R.S. document to the poetry folder in SHOWBIE.