

Acrostic

- An acrostic has a word or phrase written vertically so that each letter is on its own line.
- The lines use those letters as the start of each line.
- The poem is related to the vertical phrase.

Example

“Elementary School Fieldtrip”

Groups of hermit crabs scurry about
Aware that a giant is peering down
Zoos can't imitate this real habitat
Inches of water, full of life
Next to this puddle, another small world
Grinning, I snatch up a smooth, whole sand dollar

And wish that the clams wouldn't shut up so tight
They'll wait until water comes back in the night

The sea urchin sits with its spikes as a warning
Hesitant seagulls take snaps at it, hoping to grab it, fly, drop it,
Eat it

They eventually swoop back to the garbage pile
In the rocks there are mussels and barnacles
Deeper, there is a starfish, safe in the shadows
Excited, I reach down, unaware of the crab
Pinch!
Ouch!
Out of a crevice it waves its claw
Lurking, waiting for the next kid to come along.

Autobiographical

- This is a meaningful poem about you, the author.

Template

Line 1: _____ (Your first name)

Line 2: _____, _____, _____ (3 personal characteristics or physical traits)

Line 3: Who loves _____, _____, and _____ (3 people, things, or ideas)

Line 4: Who feels _____ about _____ (1 emotion about 1 thing)

Line 5: Who needs _____, _____, and _____ (3 things you need)

Line 6: Who gives _____, _____, and _____ (3 objects you share)

Line 7: Who fears _____, _____, and _____ (3 fears)

Line 8: Who'd like to see, _____ (1 place or person)

Line 9: Who dreams of _____ (1 idea)

Last Line: _____ (Nickname or repeat your first name)

Ballad

- This poem is used to tell a story of some kind (real or fictional).
- It typically has a rhyming scheme of the author's choice.

Example

"Geography Lesson"

By Brian Patten

Our teacher told us one day he would leave
And sail across a warm blue sea
To places he had only known from maps,
And all his life had longed to be.

The house he lived in was narrow and grey
But in his mind's eye he could see
Sweet-scented jasmine clinging to the walls,
And green leaves burning on an orange tree.

He spoke of the lands he longed to visit,
Where it was never drab or cold.
I couldn't understand why he never left,
And shook off the school's stranglehold.

Then halfway through his final term
He took ill and never returned,
And he never got to that place on the map
Where the green leaves of the orange trees burned.

The maps were redrawn on the classroom wall;
His name was forgotten, it faded away.
But a lesson he never knew he taught
Is with me to this day.

I travel to where the green leaves burn
To where the ocean's glass-clear and blue,
To all those places my teacher taught me to love
But which he never knew.

Cinquain

- A cinquain has exactly 5 lines:
 - The first line is 2 syllables
 - The second line is 4 syllables
 - The third line is 6 syllables
 - The fourth line is 8 syllables
 - The last line is 2 syllables

Example

"November Night"

By Adelaide Crapsey

Listen...

With faint dry sound,

Like steps of passing ghosts,

The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees

And fall.

Try Also . . .

Reverse Cinquain

- The reverse cinquain has exactly 5 lines:
 - The first line is 2 syllables
 - The second line is 8 syllables
 - The third line is 6 syllables
 - The fourth line is 4 syllables
 - The last line is 2 syllables

Mirror Cinquain

- It has two stanzas:
 - The first stanza is a regular cinquain
 - The second stanza is a reverse cinquain

Butterfly Cinquain

- It has 9 lines exactly:
 - The first line is 2 syllables
 - The second line is 4 syllables
 - The third line is 6 syllables
 - The fourth line is 8 syllables
 - The fifth line is 2 syllables
 - The sixth line is 8 syllables
 - The seventh line is 6 syllables
 - The eighth line is 4 syllables
 - The last line is 2 syllables

Clerihew

- The subject is a well-known person (real or fictional).
- The poem is humorous or even critical of the person.
- It has exactly four lines with a rhyme scheme of AABB.

Examples

Did Descartes
Depart
With the thought
“Therefore I’m not”?

The enemy of Harry Potter
Was a scheming plotter.
I can't tell you what he's called; I'd be ashamed
To name "he who must not be named."

Our art teacher, Mr. Shaw,
Really knows how to draw.
But his awful paintings
Have caused many faintings.

Concrete Poem

- The lines of poetry form a shape.
- The subject of the lines is related to the shape they form.

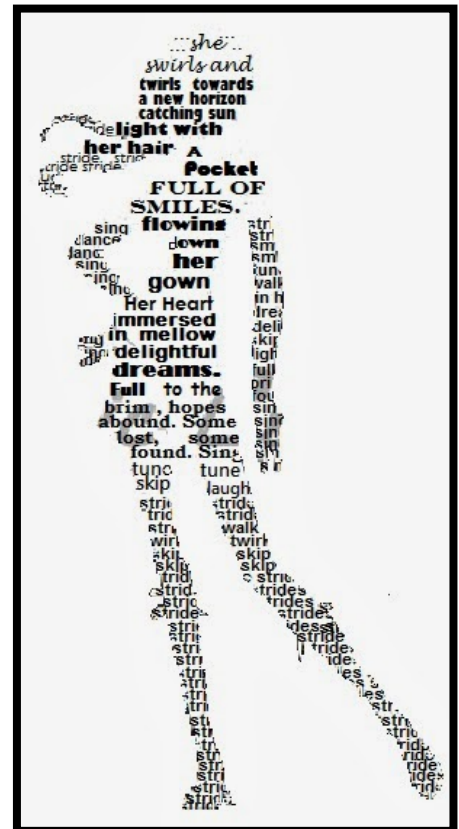
Examples

“Dreaming with Butterflies” by Sharon Bell

Flutter by Dance your way With your tissue paper wings Flash with colours oh so bright Nature's greatest work of art To see this splendid creature Of the British summertime Ever vivid always true Wrapped inside my memory When I'm in need of a smile The sense of content Dreaming	those still it is than oh I for I'll at with	butterfly across the sky delicate and dainty things shining in the morning light cannot help but stir the heart there not a better feature such an insect so divine keep the brightest hue harder times ahead of me stop and recollect a while the summer that I spent butterflies
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It is an anchor that hits
Rock
Bottom
Every
Day
Yet
He
Does Not Ever
Cry He Stays
Strong and Rises
Again

-RRE



Diamante

- The poem structure forms a diamond shapes.
- It has 7 lines exactly:
 - The first line is a noun.
 - The second line is 2 adjectives describing the noun in line 1
 - The third line is 3 “ing” verbs related to the noun in line 1
 - The fourth line is 4 nouns or a phrase that relates to both nouns (in lines 1 and 7)
 - The fifth line is 3 “ing” verbs related to the noun in line 7
 - The sixth line is 2 adjectives describing the noun in line 7
 - The seventh line is a noun
- The noun in line 1 and in line 7 are often opposites or things that you want to contrast

Examples

“Rain”

By Maanasa

raindrops
wet, plump
slipping, sliding, splashing
Here comes the rainbow—
playing, dancing, singing
warm, bright
sunrays.

“Smile”

Unknown author

smile
happy, warm
welcoming, inspiring, soothing
curve, lips, expression, emotion
disturbing, deterring, depressing
sad, unwelcome
frown

Epic (Hero Narrative)

- This is a lengthy story in poetic form.
- It follows a hero's journey.
- It has story elements (e.g. character, conflict, plot . . . rising actions, climax . . . etc.).

Example

(Section of poem with the climax):

The sword was lifted high,
And all was suddenly silent;
The wrongs would all be ended,
Soon as the fated swoop of steel
Had struck the tyrant's head.

Though knowing his defeat,
And lying in his deathbed,
The evil king still bared a smile,
Which only angered Theros more,
And brought the fated blow.

Epigram

- A short poem ending in a witty turn of thought in the final line.
- Often used to jab at someone or some way of thinking.
- Is often (but not always) 2 or 4 lines with rhyming.

Examples

(By Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

Sir, I admit your general rule,
That every poet is a fool,
But you yourself may serve to show it,
That every fool is not a poet.

(By Mr. Scholes)

Kids go screaming all through the halls,
Proving we need more sound-proof walls!

Epitaph

- A humorous engraving that could (but shouldn't) be put on someone's tombstone.
- It is typically fictional.
- It has 4 lines exactly and a rhyme scheme of AABB.
- The first line starts with "Here lies . . ."

Example

Here lies Sam Shay,
Smoked six packs a day.
He started smoking when he was five.
Now that fool is no longer alive.

Etheree

- A poem with exactly 10 lines:
 - The first line has 1 syllable
 - The second line has 2 syllables . . . and so on . . .
 - The tenth line has 10 syllables

Example

Fall
When leaves
Drift slowly
Down to the ground
The world turns golden
Red and orange like flames
Summer ends, cool breezes blow
Rustle in the trees, soft and calm
Crisply the leaves crunch under my feet
Winter winds will blow the season away

Try also . . .

Reverse Etheree

- The syllables are reversed, beginning with 10 syllables down to the last line of 1 syllable.

Stacked Etheree

- Two Etheree poems with the syllables in order twice (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) for 20 lines total.

Twin Etheree

- An Etheree poem of 20 lines with the syllables in pairs (1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 10, 10)

Ghazal

- The poem is a chain of couplets (2-line stanzas) with a specific rhyme pattern:
 - Lines 1-2 rhyme AA.
 - Lines 3-4 rhyme bA.
 - Lines 5-6 rhyme cA . . . and so on for as many couplets as you choose.
- Each couplet should be able to stand as its own poem, but each relates to the topic of the rest.
- The last couplet should reference the author of the poem in 3rd person (can be a nickname or symbol).

Example

The beach and its inviting sand,
Is the best kind of land.

Waves wash up on the shore,
Over feet where people stand.

The tide pulls at the little children,
They grab out scared to a parent's hand.

Laying out in the sun all day,
Mr. Scholes has nothing planned.

Traditional Haiku

- The subject is typically nature.
- The poem has exactly 3 lines:
 - The first line has 5 syllables.
 - The second line has 7 syllables.
 - The third line has 5 syllables.

Examples

Soft snow has fallen
The moon lights it with its glow
Warm tranquility

An old silent pond . . .
A frog jumps into the pond,
Splash! Silence again.

Try also . . .

Contemporary Haiku

- The subject can be anything.
- There are typically 3 lines, but it can go a little shorter or longer.
- There are no rules on syllables per line.

Example

Coffee to go
The truckstop waitress
Calls me sugar

Kyrielle

- A Kyrielle poem has at least 3 quatrains (stanzas of 4 lines).
- Each quatrain has a refrain (repeating line or phrase), usually the last line of each stanza.
- The author chooses a rhyming scheme, such as AABB, CCBB, DDBB . . . or ABAB, CBCB, DBDB . . . or ABAC, DBDC, EBEC . . . etc.
- Each line is exactly 8 syllables.

Example

“My Bouquet”

By Floria Kelderhouse

Some days I sing, some days I cry.
My soul's the one determines why.
Sometimes it laughs, sometimes it mourns.
On my bouquet are many thorns.

Wake up each day, face a dark cloud.
My happiness wrapped in a shroud.
The day begins; to me it scorns.
On my bouquet are many thorns.

Lay down my head, dark nights begun.
With the sad setting of the sun.
From all my sorrows my heart mourns.
On my bouquet are many thorns.

Try also . . .

Kyrielle Sonnet

- This follows the same rules as the Kyrielle except that it is exactly 14 lines: 3 quatrains followed by a finishing couplet (2 lines). The couplet does not need to rhyme.

Lanturne

- This poem has exactly 5 lines which are said to form the shape of a lantern:
 - The first line is 1 syllable.
 - The second line is 2 syllables.
 - The third line is 3 syllables.
 - The fourth line is 4 syllables.
 - The last line is 1 syllable.

Examples

All examples by Crystal Rose

Swift
Winds blow
threatening,
a tornado
grows.

Rose
opens,
revealing
hidden charm and
grace.

Sun
rises
over peaks,
morning glories
bloom.

Limerick

- It is exactly 5 lines long.
- The lines have a rhyme pattern of AABBA.
- It is meant to be funny (but still make sense).
- Begins “There was a/an _____ named _____”

Example

There was an old fellow named Green,
Who grew so abnormally lean,
And flat, and compressed,
That his back touched his chest,
And sideways he couldn't be seen.

There was an old man from Peru
Who dreamed he was eating his shoe
He awoke in the night
With a terrible fright
To discover it was totally true.

Minute

- The minute poem is exactly 12 lines split into 3 quatrains (stanzas of 4 lines).
- Each stanza begins with an 8-syllable line; the other three lines are 4 syllables.
- The rhyme scheme is AABB, CCDD, EEFF.

Example

“I Need Someone”

By Linda Newman

I need someone to hold me tight
Through dark of night,
Who won't go 'way
At break of day.

Someone whose love will mend the seams
Of broken dreams,
And give me back
The trust I lack.

For love, it holds the magic key
To set me free,
To heal my soul
And make me whole.

Monody

- This is a poetic form specifically for mourning the loss of someone.
- It can but does not have to rhyme and there are no line, stanza, or length rules.

Example

“The Sea's Handmaiden”

By Dendrobia

She often walked along the shore
In windy weather or in fair,
But now my love shall stroll no more,
Nor will the breeze play with her hair.

I did not even know her name
When she came to me that summer day.
A wild thing that I could never tame,
But all the same, I thought she'd stay.

I've lost her, my love, to the sea
Her footsteps fading in the sand.
If only the waves would return her to me,
So we might stroll hand in hand.

Monorhyme

- A poem where all the lines have the same rhyme (AAAAA . . .)

Examples

“Late for Class”

By Dendrobia

I realized it was half past four
When I, quite late, ran out the door.
My history class I so abhor,
But I missed two sessions the week before.
I failed a test on ancient lore
And forgot the date of the Second World War.
(Man, my brain was really sore.)
Up the marble stairs I tore,
And slid across a just-mopped floor:
I banged my knee and loudly swore,
To wake -again- at half past four!
These nightmares I can stand no more...

“Night Storm”

By Marie Summers

It came in a winter’s night,
a fierce cold with quite a bite.
Frosted wind with all its might
sent ice and snow an invite
to layer earth in pure white
and glisten with morning light.

Nonet

- There are exactly 9 lines:
 - The top line has 9 syllables, the next line has 8, etc., until the last line has only 1 syllable.

Example

“The Liar”

I relive the scene through tearful eyes
and sorrow is unchained again.
I knew the truth, you denied.
Our trust had been broken
yet still you replied
by telling me
a n o t h e r
boldfaced
LIE

Try also . . .

Reverse Nonet

- The top line has 1 syllable, the next has 2, etc., until the last line has 9 syllables.

Nursery Rhyme Twist

- This is based on a traditional nursery rhyme.
- It follows the original format and rhyme scheme but with a new twist in the words.
- Include a copy of the original nursery rhyme on a separate page.

Example

Mary had a little jam,
she spread it on a waffle.
And if she hadn't eaten ten
she wouldn't feel so awful.

Ode

- An Ode is a poem praising and glorifying a person, place or thing.
- It typically has a rhyme scheme of the author's choice.

Examples

"An Ode to Dreamers"

By B. R. Jording

When dreamers dream
And lovers love
Do they receive their visions
From heaven above?
Or do they originate
Where all things start
Within our minds
Within our hearts?
I know not all
But what I do know is this
You cannot build a Kingdom
Upon a flimsy wish
So believe in your dreams
Follow them blind
Lest you lose them all,
To the hands of time.

"Ode to a Butterfly"

By Lorraine Nisbet

Oh! the butterfly
he flutters all day,
he roams the skies
with some delay.

He alights on trees, fences
and roses,
to whatever attracts his fancy
he will do his poses.

He's up, he's down
he dances with the breeze,
he comes, he goes
and does it with ease.

As I watch him
in pure delight,
I begin to wonder
if he knows his own plight.

For soon spring turns into summer
then summer flies quickly by,
the sun setting early
into a darkening sky.

The butterfly is gone now
replaced by snow,
but he will be back again
to put on his beautiful show.

Open Form

- This is a completely open form, meaning that there are no structure rules. This is the perfect form for writing that is powerful but doesn't fit other forms, such as a stream of thoughts.
- This is a form that is useful for playing around with where words are spaced on the page.

Examples

"Disappointments"

By Vivian Gilbert Zabel

Every life has a room
where memories are stored:
A box of special occasions here,
Shelves of shared laughter there.
But back in the shadows
Lurks a trunk locked tight,
Not to be opened and searched.
There hide disappointments
Which darken every heart.

"Fog"

By Carl Sandburg

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Opposite

- Choose a place or event and humorously write the opposite of what is expected!

Example

"The Opposite Day Parade"

By Shel Silverstein

Because the day was rainy,
it was easy to persuade
my folks to take me to
the Opposite Day Parade.
The band passed by at twilight
playing Sunrise Serenade.
We liked the music so darn much,
we booed them while they played.
Sleek fire engines followed,
covered in smoke and flame.

I quickly called 119.
Of course, no help came.
Some paramedics raced by,
tearing band-aids off the crowd.
I couldn't hear their siren
because it blew so loud.
The Boy Scouts never showed up.
I guess they weren't prepared.
I'd hate to go back next year,
and I hope to see you there.

Ottava Rima (Italian)

- This poem is written as an octave (a stanza of 8 lines).
- Each line is 11 syllables.
- The rhyme scheme is ABABABCC.

Example

Quickly did the tiger begin his fast run
Over hilly ground you see him fly and leap
The passive prey laying grazing in the sun
Suddenly its life that it wanted to keep
Tiger pounces, quickly getting the job done
The prey collapsing in a really big heap
Tiger sleeps as night takes over from the day
Will we ever see the hunter become prey?

Try also . . .

Ottava Rima (English)

- It follows the rules of the Italian form except that each line is 10 syllables.

Palindrome

- Also known as mirrored poetry, the palindrome is a poem where meaning is the same forward or backward.
- There is a word at the center that works as a reversal point for the poem:
 - The words of each line are reversed at the reversal point.

Example

“Reflections”

By Lynne C. Fadden

Life—
imitates nature,
always moving, traveling continuously.
Falling leaves placed delicately;
foliage touching the echoing waters,
clarity removed—
Reflections distorted through waves rippling;
gracefully dancing
mirrored images
—reflect—
images mirrored.
Dancing gracefully,
rippling waves through distorted reflections—
removed clarity.
Waters echoing the touching foliage;
delicately placed leaves falling—
continuously traveling, moving always,
nature imitates
life.

Pantoum

- This poem is made up of quatrains (4-line stanzas).
- The second line of each stanza becomes the first line of the stanza that follows.
- The fourth line of each stanza becomes the third line of the stanza that follows.
- The rhyme scheme is ABAB, BCBC, CDCD, and so on until the last stanza.
- In the final stanza, each line is set:
 - Line 2 of previous stanza
 - Line 3 of first stanza
 - Line 4 of previous stanza
 - Line 1 of first stanza

Examples

“It All Started with a Packet of Seeds”
By Sally Ann Roberts

It all started with a packet of seeds,
To be planted with tenderness and care,
At the base of an Oak, free from all weeds.
They will produce such beauty and flare.

To be planted with tenderness and care,
A cacophony of colorful flowers,
They will produce such beauty and flare.
With an aroma that can continue for hours.

A cacophony of colorful flowers,
Bright oranges with yellows and reds,
With an aroma that can continue for hours,
Delivered from their fresh flower beds.

Bright oranges with yellows and reds,
At the base of an oak, free from all weeds,
Delivered from their fresh flower beds,
At all started with a packet of seeds.

“Osprey”
By Dendrobia

O, sleek and beautiful hunter
Who deftly takes to wing
And tears her prey asunder,
A victory cry she sings.

Who deftly takes to wing
This chilly, salty morn?
A victory cry she sings
As this new day is born.

This chilly salty morn
A seahawk silently dives,
As this new day is born,
To feed three brand new lives.

A seahawk silently dives
And tears her prey asunder
To feed three brand new lives,
O, sleek and beautiful hunter.

“Celestial Dreams”
By Marie Summers

Moonbeams creamy as pie
Racing across the night
On a journey into the sky
Dreams seeking celestial light

Racing across the night
Past Venus waking from sleep
Dreams seeking celestial light
Cast into the dark so deep

Past Venus waking from sleep
To Saturn's expanding rings
Cast into the dark so deep
Catching a ride on angel's wings

To Saturn's expanding rings
On a journey into the sky
Catching a ride on angel's wings
Moonbeams creamy as pie

“Seasonal Whispers”
By Marie Summers

Seasonal whispers, last farewells,
Autumn's beauty forever told
With paintbrushes and pastels,
Leaf rubbings of pink and gold.

Autumn's beauty forever told
Through the eyes of a little girl.
Leaf rubbings of pink and gold,
Among broad strokes, colors swirl.

Through the eyes of a little girl
With paintbrushes and pastels,
Among broad strokes, colors swirl,
Seasonal whispers, last farewells.

Qaurtern

- This poem is 16 lines exactly, consisting of 4 quatrains (4-line stanzas).
- There is a refrain (repeated line or phrase) in a different place in each stanza:
 - The first line of stanza 1 becomes the second line of stanza 2, the third line of stanza 3, and the fourth line of stanza 4.
- Each line has 8 syllables per line; this poem can but does not have to rhyme.

Example

“True Love, Redefined”

By Linda Newman

One day she hopes true love to find,
One soul, one mind, two hearts entwined;
Somewhere out there’s the perfect guy,
For Youth has set her standards high.

He must be rich, handsome, refined,
One day she hopes true love to find;
Yet no one seems to measure up
And disappointment fills her cup.

The years go by, her nights grow long,
Her aging voice sings sorrow’s song.
One day she hopes true love to find,
Her definition redefined;

Simply a plain and faithful friend
To see her to life’s journey’s end;
For though her face with age be lined,
One day she hopes true love to find.

Quinzaine

- This poem has exactly 3 lines:
 - The first line is a statement of 7 syllables.
 - The second line is a related question of 5 syllables.
 - The third line is another related question of 3 syllables.

Examples

“Out There”

By David Mohn

Looking out beyond our world . . .
Are we all alone?
Should we know?

“On Rain”

By Abdulhafeez Oyewole

Rain comes in thunder and breeze.
What if there’s no gust?
Or no boom?

Renga

- A poem created by two or more people, taking turns by stanza.
 - The first stanza is three lines and follows the syllable pattern of haiku (5, 7, 5).
 - The second stanza is two lines, both of 7 syllables.
 - The stanzas alternate in this pattern (3 lines, 2 lines, 3 lines, 2 lines, and so on).
- Each stanza should relate to the overall theme and move naturally from one stanza to the next.
- The subject of Renga is typically nature, seasons, and love.
- The length is a minimum of 2 stanzas, but there are some specific forms of renga (see table below)

Renga Form	Number of Stanzas
Hyakuin	100
Senku	1000
Gojūin	50
Yoyoshi	44
Kasen	36
Han-kasen	18
Shisan	12

Example

The following is an example of a short Renga:

“Passing Seasons”

The final leaf falls
The tree branches are so bare
Autumn has arrived

Remember Summer's warm kiss
So gentle, it will be missed

Now the cold sets in
Frost covers everyone's grass
And skies remain gray

Stores fill with warm gear
Jackets, beanies, and mittens

Rondeau

- This poem is exactly 15 lines long with three stanzas:
 - The first stanza is a quintet (5 lines).
 - The second stanza is a quatrain (4 lines).
 - The last stanza is a sestet (6 lines).
- The rhyme scheme is AABBA, AAB(R), AABBA(R); R is a refrain (repeated phrase) taken from line 1.
- Except for the refrain, all other lines are the same metrical length (syllables usually work as a metrical guide).

Examples

“Springtime Air”

By Dan Tharp

Come follow me, I'll lead you where
The days are fine and nights are fair;
Where fields of clover, lush and green,
Will visit you within this scene --
 As March inhales the springtime air.

So come with me and we shall share
The freshness springtime can ensnare,
As fields of flowers thus convene.--
 Come follow me...

Springtime's approach to which we're heir
Will bring about winter's repair,
Where we shall witness sights serene
And glory in that to be seen.
No other season can compare.
 Come follow me...

“As I Was Warmed”

By Pam H. Murray

As I was warmed by golden sun
And felt its peace when it was done,
A patch of clover, barely seen,
Reflected sun in jaunty green
As Winter fell and Spring had won.

I watched the children laugh and run.
I felt my spirit join their fun,
The lifting of a Winter screen
As I was warmed.

Time called for rain, but there was none.
A brand new season had begun
And March had painted pastel scene
As Jack Frost tried, once more, to glean
A final chill, but found not one
As I was warmed.

Rondel

- This poem is exactly 13 lines with three stanzas:
 - The first and second stanzas are quatrains (4 lines each).
 - The third stanza is a quintet (5 lines).
- The rhyme scheme is ABba, abAB, abbaA; the capital letters show refrains (repeated lines).

Example

“A Rondel for Margarita”

By Gail Kavanagh

On the carousel, on a summer's day,
As the rest of the fairground goes gliding by,
We coast together, now low, now high,
But how quickly the moment slips away.

She laughs at the music, elfin and fey,
She laughs for joy at the sapphire sky,
On the carousel, on a summer's day,
As the rest of the fairground goes gliding by.

How sweet her delight in simple play,
Someday, without me, she'll take to the sky,
Brave little fledgling, ready to fly.
We must hold these moments while we may
On the carousel, on a summer's day.

Rondelet

- This poem is a single septet (7-line stanza) with two rhymes and a refrain (repeated line or phrase):
 - The rhyme scheme is AbAabba; the capital letters show the refrains.
- The refrain line is half as many syllables as all other lines (e.g. 4 to 8).

“Such Happiness”

By Linda Newman

Such happiness
Has crept up on me without sound,
Such happiness
Has touched my heart with soft caress;
All life's sharp corners have gone round,
Since I've met you, my friend, I've found
Such happiness.

“Happy Am I!”

By Linda Newman

Happy am I!
For I have found a friend in you.
Happy am I!
The sun is shining in my sky.
I know that you will see me through,
No more will I be feeling blue.
Happy am I!

Sedoka

- This poem is 6 lines exactly, made of two tercets (3-line stanzas).
- Both stanzas have a syllable pattern of 5, 7, 7.
- The two stanzas work like a conversation, either showing the subject from two different perspectives or the second stanza responding to the first in some way.

Example

“Shade”

By Mr. Scholes

Magnificent trees
Towering into the sky
Shading the creatures below

A new, weak sapling
Struggles to grow without light
Choked by the towers above

Septolet

- This poem has 14 words spread across 7 lines with a break at or near the middle. Both halves work to create a picture of a scene.

Example

[Untitled]

By Crystal Rose

Lion
moving swiftly
across the plain,
most intent.

Antelope
grazing contently
on his meal.

Sestina (From France in the 1100s!)

- This poem has 6 sestets (6-line stanzas) followed by a tercet (3-line stanza) for a total of 39 lines.
- The last word of each line in the first stanza is used as the last word of the rest of the stanzas in a pattern, so choose useful and powerful words:
 - First stanza: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
 - Second stanza: 6, 1, 5, 2, 4, 3.
 - Third stanza: 3, 6, 4, 1, 2, 5.
 - Fourth stanza: 5, 3, 2, 6, 1, 4.
 - Fifth stanza: 4, 5, 1, 3, 6, 2.
 - Sixth stanza: 2, 4, 6, 5, 3, 1.
- The tercet at the end also has a specific pattern:
 - Line 1: Use word 2 at the start or middle of the line and word 5 at the end.
 - Line 2: Use word 4 at the start or middle of the line and word 3 at the end.
 - Line 3: Use word 6 at the start or middle of the line and word 1 at the end.

Example

“Sestina, to the Lover's Rite”

By Dave Charlton

We stand at last upon this eventide, to give
to each our vow. To the lover's rite abide.
Let that which does not end return,
and let no turning days divide us.
I confess I am afraid of what certain mystery
a seasonless sun reveals.

I fear more the solitary life revealed
in Autumn's long spell. Then let it be this life I give
without caution. And let the mystery
rest untouched where sea and land abide.
My soul recalls no still night felled between us.
It seems we were born together, and together return

anew to the whitening day. To the turn
of the sovereign tide. My hands laid bare reveal
another light. And hand to my hand we make a country of us,
my companion of nightlong ways. Let these common lands give
shape to sleeping wiles. Let the bright and pebbled shore abide
the rushing sea. "In country sleep" we'll toil our songstilled mystery.

And will we sing, in furthered seasons, the hearthstone mysteries
of time's greener passion? Love again our tamer glories? If so return
to the hallowed spire of youth. In this gentle fate we'll abide,
for what is our hymn but a child's bedtime refrain? What is revealed
in mystery but the coming breeze we long to breathe and give
to the new? Its buried scent a memory which knows us

again. Then by the sway of winter's solemn flame let us
firm this vow. Though the prophet moon still steadies her mystery
before us, our last will be a greener gold, given
to the one sacrament. And breath by breath return
again to our certain selves, our nightbound promise revealed.
Heart of this heart abide.

Soul of this soul abide.

We were born together, and together let us
pass unknown through porticos of the half-light shadow, revealing
in turn the break of every lasted dawn, and each unsummoned mystery
inspired on a shifting sea. It is the end days return.
The proffered gift we give.

Abide at last, and forever love, the mystery
of us. Bound by time's lasting measure we'll return,
revealing with every breath our souls to give.

Sonnet

- This poem is exactly 14 lines, with 3 quatrains (4-line stanzas) and a couplet (2-line stanza).
- It uses a rhyme scheme of the author's choice; the patterns below are common schemes:
 - abba abba cde cde
 - abba abba cdcdcd
 - abab cdcd efef gg
 - abab bcbe cdcd ee

Example

“Forgot My Homework”

I walk to class, fearing the worst,
Let's hope I don't get caught;
I swear my heart is going to burst,
It's starting to get hot.

I don't want lunch detention,
I'd rather go to study tables;
I'm getting sick from all the tension,
I'm feeling quite unstable.

Maybe it'll be due tomorrow,
I certainly hope and pray,
Then I won't be full of sorrow,
This won't be such a bad day.

I walk in class and see the board:
Due tomorrow—my luck has soared!

Spoken Word

- This poem is meant to be heard rather than read, so the written aspect doesn't have to be grammatically polished but the speaking should be well-rehearsed when presenting.
- The topics are usually serious, often controversial, and tend to reveal deep issues within a person or society. A poetic speech is a good way to think about this kind of poetry.
- To get credit for this poem, you need to submit a written draft and a polished recording (audio or video).

Examples

Be careful in searching examples because there can be inappropriate language/content for school. Here are some examples to watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu_Gl0woeOw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNYVyzBtDvY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLJscAlk1M>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT5hiuI1OG4&list=PLLvdSfZYtsxiVC91Yrx6jdVT399ZABSsO&index=](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT5hiuI1OG4&list=PLLvdSfZYtsxiVC91Yrx6jdVT399ZABSsO&index=4)

Tanka

Like Haiku, the subject of this poetry is usually nature.
It is 5 lines exactly, with a syllable pattern of 5, 7, 5, 7, 7.

Examples

By Dendrobia

A cool wind blows in
With a blanket of silence.
Straining to listen
For those first few drops of rain,
The storm begins in earnest.

By Cheri L. Ahner

Peaceful solitude
intrinsic to our spirit
lost in pensive thought
standing on the edge of time
the road to nowhere special.

Terza Rima

- A Terza Rima has 11 lines, composed of 3 tercets (3-line stanzas) and a couplet (2-line stanza).
- Each line has eleven syllables.
- It has a rhyming scheme of ABA, BCB, CDC, DD.

Example

“Faith”

By Linda Newman

Faith is the glue that holds our lives together,
Faith gives us roots that we may withstand trials
Through dark of night and wind and stormy weather.

Faith comes into our lives and sin beguiles,
Giving us strength to overcome temptation,
To glory over Satan and his wiles.

A firm belief will overpower frustration
When life hands us more pain than we can handle,
And, at the end, faith will be our salvation.

So live your life in faith bright as a candle,
Oh let it glow, its flicker not abating,
And let there be no hint of sin or scandal.

For He who died for us in Heaven is waiting
With open arms, in faith, no hesitating.

Try also . . .

Terza Rima Sonnet

- It is 14 lines long (4 tercets and 1 couplet).
- It keeps 11 syllables per line.
- It has a rhyme scheme of ABA, BCB, CDC, DED, EE.

Terzanelle

- This poem is 19 lines, with 5 tercets (3-line stanzas) and a closing quatrain (4-line stanza).
- There is a set rhyme scheme with refrains (repeated lines) in the following pattern: ABA, bCB, cDC, dED, eFE, fAFA; the capital letters indicate the refrains.
- All lines should have the same metrical length (syllables can help set this).

Examples

“A River Flows”

By Crystal Rose

A gentle river flows
In the valley below
A gentle river flows
Where blue carnations grow
On the shores of heartache
In the valley below
where loves dreams re-awake
with the passing seasons
on the shores of heartache
no one knows the reasons
loves heart will beat once more
with the passing seasons
on this lone distant shore
where sadness is lifted
loves heart will beat once more
when the spirits shifted
A gentle river flows
where sadness is lifted
A gentle river flows

“September”

By Andrea Dietrich

September, drifting in with glow of moon,
You stifle Summer’s ardor. . . and she grieves.
In guise of fire, then Fall comes all too soon.

Your breath grows cool. You’ll blow and loosen leaves.
The hills and woodlands will reflect new hues.
You stifle Summer’s ardor. . . and she grieves.

In Autumn’s chill, the colors are a ruse.
For as you pass, the trees are set ablaze.
The hills and woodlands then reflect new hues.

Though warmth may linger through your final days,
old Sun is waning, yet he still seems strong!
For as you pass, the trees are set ablaze.

September, you’re a melancholy song.
Though time be short, you paint a brilliant dusk!
Old sun is waning, yet he still seems strong.

October looms. . . Your ending will be brusque.
September, drifting in with glow of moon,
though time be short, you paint a brilliant dusk.
In guise of fire, then Fall comes all too soon.

Tetractys

- A Tetractys has 5 lines with a syllable pattern of 1, 2, 3, 4, 10.

Examples

“Freedom”

By Terri Anthony

free
from you
your ego
your blaming me
I am a free spirit who has no past

“Eclipse”

By Marie Summers

An
Eclipse
Rules the sky. . .
A rare chance for
Divine friends, sun and moon, to rub noses.

Try also . . .

Double Tetractys

- It has 10 lines with a syllable pattern of 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 10, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Triple Tetractys

- It has 15 lines with a syllable pattern of 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 10, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 10.

Quad . . . Quint . . .

- Continue the pattern for as long as you wish to go.

Tongue Twister

- In this poem, most words begin with the same letter.
- Although the poem is silly, it should mostly make sense grammatically.

Example

“Betty Botter’s Biting Beaver”

Betty Botter bought a beaver.
But the beastly beaver bit her.
So she bought a biting badger.
And the badger bit the beaver.
Since the badger bit the beaver,
now the beaver will not bite her.
So ‘twas better Betty Botter
bought a beaver-biting badger.

Triolet

- This poem has exactly 8 lines.
- The poem has a rhyme scheme and is largely built on refrains (repeated lines):
 - The rhyme scheme is ABaAabAB; the capital letters indicate refrains.
- You choose whether each line has 8 syllables or 10, but they must all be the same.

Examples

“My Heart Residing in Thy Chest”
By Dan Tharp

For, break it shall and so it must
My heart residing in thy chest
When placed in care of lover's trust
For, break it shall and so it must
Passion's ashes returned to dust
This lonely heart is laid to rest
For, break it shall and so it must
My heart residing in thy chest

“In Mourning Black”
By Dendrobia

Fair maid, clad all in mourning black
Rides off upon her golden steed.
A mocking gesture: heart she lack'd.
Fair maid, clad all in mourning black,
Sheds not a tear and turns her back
With no regrets for wicked deeds.
Fair maid, clad all in mourning black,
Rides off upon her golden steed.

“Mourning Twilight”
By Mary Ellen Clark

Embrace twilight and bid farewell
to passion's warmth and sweet caress.
A grave's prepared where she will dwell
embrace twilight and bid farewell.
O hear the mourning of her bell
that tolls for sorrows you suppress
embrace twilight and bid farewell
to passion's warmth and sweet caress.

“The Stars Will Shine”
By Marie Summers

Don't hold your breath, the stars will shine.
Make your wishes, and close your eyes;
Tonight's bright view will be divine.
Don't hold your breath, the stars will shine
And wink with the planets of nine
While starships zip through the night skies.
Don't hold your breath, the stars will shine.
Make your wishes, and close your eyes. . .

Two-voice

- This poem shows two points of view presented in opposite columns; a middle column can be used for similarities.
- The poem can be about an event, about people, about a theme, etc.

Example

Batman		Joker
I am Batman.		I am the Joker.
I am a Hero.		I am a villain.
	I have secrets.	
I fight crime caused by the Joker.		I run crimes that are solved by Batman.
	We are total opposites.	
People admire me for my work.		People fear me for my work.
	Without him, I am nothing.	

Tyburn

- This poem is exactly 6 lines, with a syllable pattern of 2, 2, 2, 2, 9, 9.
- The first four lines rhyme (AAAA) and are descriptive words.
- The last two lines rhyme (BB) and must use the words from lines 1-4 as the 5th-8th syllables:
 - Use the words from lines 1 and 2 at the end of line 5.
 - Use the words from lines 3 and 4 at the end of line 6.

Examples

“Death”
By Mike McCann

Blackest
Darkest
Coldest
Oldest
Burning in the Blackest, Darkest night
There in lives the Coldest, Oldest fright

“Diana”
By Diana Dalton

Willful
wistful
playful
peaceful
she can have a willful wistful day
yet she has a peaceful playful way.

Villanelle

- This poem has exactly 19 lines, composed of 5 tercets (3-line stanzas) and a quatrain (4-line stanza).
- The rhyme scheme is ABA, aBA, aBA, aBA, aBA, aBAA, with the capital letters and **boldface** indicating the refrains (repeated lines).

Examples

“Runaway”

By Julie Wright

Why do they runaway?
My soul so beautiful, so bright
But for some reason I keep them at bay

Sometimes I wish they would stay
They give up on me without a fight
Why do they runaway?

Some think I am pretty, I say I'm okay
Though this doesn't feel right
But for some reason I keep them at bay

What can I do, what can I say?
What causes their flight?
Why do they runaway?

Just when I think I've won their heart, they stray
I feel like the farthest planet in the night
But for some reason I keep them at bay

What have I done to chase them away?
My soul beckons to them like a beacon of light
Why do they runaway?
But for some reason I keep them at bay

“Do Not Go Gentle”

By Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.