



Poetry Types



Below are some common types of poetry. Conduct your own research on each type. Add its key features and details of one example (Title, Author, and Year Published) in the table. The first row has been completed for you.

Poetry Type	Defining Features Describe and list key features of this poetry type.	Example Poem Provide the title, author, and year published of a poem from this poetry type.
Haiku	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 syllables in three lines; five in the 1st, seven in the 2nd and five in the 3rd• Typically in present tense• Typically non-rhyming	'Thirteen Haiku', by Yosa Buson, 1764-1784
Sonnet		
Free Verse		
Acrostic		
Limerick		
Narrative Poetry		



Explanation for Free Verse:

Incorrect Example (forced rhyme and meter):

The sun sets slow and paints the sky,
A fiery hue that makes me sigh.
The stars come out and twinkle bright,
A night of rest, a peaceful sight.

Correct Example (true Free Verse):

Silence descends like a blanket
softly shrouding the city's scars
night's solace wraps around my soul
fragments of dreams scattered
in the darkness, I find my voice

1. No specific rhyme or meter.
2. Natural speech rhythms.
3. Emphasis on content over form.
4. Imagery and symbolism.
5. Experimentation with language.

Key Characteristics:

1. Fluid structure.
2. Enjambment (sentences/lines merge).
3. Caesura (pauses within lines).
4. Imagery-driven.
5. Emphasis on emotional resonance.

Types of Free Verse:

1. Stream-of-Consciousness.
2. Surrealism.
3. Confessional Poetry.
4. Fragmented Narrative.

Famous Free Verse Poets:

1. Walt Whitman.
2. Sylvia Plath.
3. Allen Ginsberg.
4. Adrienne Rich.

Tips for Writing Free Verse:

1. Focus on emotional truth.
2. Use sensory details.
3. Experiment with language.
4. Play with form and structure.
5. Edit for clarity and flow.

Free Verse allows poets to break traditional forms and explore new ways of expressing themselves.

Additional Resources:

- Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass"
- Sylvia Plath's "Ariel"
- Allen Ginsberg's "Howl"
- Adrienne Rich's "Diving into the Wreck"



Explanation for Acrostic poetry:

What is Acrostic Poetry?

Acrostic poetry is a type of poetry where the first letter of each line spells out a word, phrase, or sentence.



Example:

Incorrect Example (not spelling out a word/phrase):

S – Spring arrives with warmth
P – Gentle breeze on my skin
R – Robins sing sweet melodies
I – Ice melts away slowly
N – Nature awakens anew
G – Green shoots burst forth

Correct Example (spelling out "SPRING"):

S – Softly falls the morning dew
P – Petals unfurl, scenting air
R – Radiant sunshine warms my face
I – Inhaling life's vibrant hues
N – Nature's beauty, pure and bright
G – Gentle breeze that whispers low

Guidelines:

1. Choose a word/phrase to spell out.
2. Each line's first letter must match the word/phrase.
3. Lines can vary in length and rhythm.
4. Use meaningful words and imagery.
5. Experiment with themes and emotions.

Types of Acrostics:

1. Simple Acrostic (spells out a word/phrase).
2. Double Acrostic (spells out two words/phrases).
3. Hidden Acrostic (word/phrase hidden within text).

Famous Acrostic Poems:

1. "A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky" by Lewis Carroll.
2. "An Acrostic" by Edgar Allan Poe.

Tips for Writing Acrostics:

1. Choose a meaningful word/phrase.
2. Brainstorm related ideas and imagery.
3. Experiment with line lengths and rhythms.
4. Ensure coherence and flow.
5. Revise and refine.

Acrostics offer a unique, creative way to express thoughts and emotions.

Additional Resources:

- Lewis Carroll's "A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky"
- Edgar Allan Poe's "An Acrostic"
- Acrostic poetry examples and templates online.



Explanation for Limerick poetry:

What is a Limerick?

A Limerick is a humorous, five-line poem with a specific rhyming scheme and meter.



Example:

Incorrect Example (wrong rhyming scheme):

There once was a man from Kent,
Who had a most curious bent.
He'd dance with a grin,
And a twirl of his spin,
And always wore socks with lint.

Correct Example:

There once was a man from Nantucket,
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.
But his daughter so bold,
Took all his gold,
And left him with only a buck-it.

Limerick Guidelines:

1. Five lines.
2. Rhyming scheme: AABBA.
3. Meter: 8-8-5-5-8 syllables.
4. Lines 1, 2, and 5 have 8 syllables.
5. Lines 3 and 4 have 5 syllables.
6. Humorous or witty tone.

Limerick Structure:

- Line 1: Introduce setting/character.
- Line 2: Develop idea.
- Line 3: Turn/twist.
- Line 4: Consequence.
- Line 5: Punchline.

Types of Limericks:

1. Traditional Limerick (humorous).
2. Literary Limerick (serious themes).
3. Double Limerick (two connected limericks).

Famous Limerick Poets:

1. Edward Lear.
2. Ogden Nash.
3. W.S. Gilbert.

Tips for Writing Limericks:

1. Choose a clever title.
2. Use strong, active verbs.
3. Play with word sounds.
4. Ensure unexpected twist.
5. Revise for clarity and humor.

Limericks offer a fun, creative way to express humor and wit.

Additional Resources:

- Edward Lear's "A Book of Nonsense"
- Ogden Nash's "The Cow"
- W.S. Gilbert's "The Bab Ballads"
- Limerick examples and templates online.





Explanation for Sonnets:

Incorrect Example:

Love shines bright in my heart,
A flame that burns with fervent zeal,
Making life's journey a sweet work of art.

Correct Example:

In fair Verona's light, where sunshine plays,
Amidst the cypress trees and ancient stones,
My heart doth beat with love's sweet, tender sway.

This Sonnet adheres to the traditional Shakespearean Sonnet structure and guidelines:

Breakdown:

- Line 1 (10 syllables): In fair Verona's light, where sunshine plays
- Line 2 (10 syllables): Amidst the cypress trees and ancient stones
- Line 3 (10 syllables): My heart doth beat with love's sweet, tender sway
- Lines 4-14: Follow the rhyme scheme and structure

Traditional Sonnet Guidelines:

1. 14 lines, divided into four quatrains and a final couplet.
2. Shakespearean Sonnet: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG.
3. Italian Sonnet: ABBA ABBA CDCD CD.
4. Written in iambic pentameter (5 feet, 10 syllables).
5. Explores a theme or emotion.
6. Typically features a volta (turn) in the third quatrain.

Types of Sonnets:

1. Shakespearean Sonnet.
2. Italian Sonnet.
3. Spenserian Sonnet.
4. Miltonic Sonnet.

Famous Sonnet Collections:

1. Shakespeare's Sonnets.
2. John Donne's Holy Sonnets.
3. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese.

Tips for Writing Sonnets:

1. Choose a theme or emotion.
2. Use sensory language.
3. Follow the rhyme scheme and structure.
4. Experiment with metaphor and simile.
5. Revise and refine.





Explanation for Narrative Poetry:

What is Narrative Poetry?

Narrative poetry tells a story, often with a beginning, middle, and end, using poetic devices.

Example:

Incorrect Example (lacking narrative structure):

The sun sets slow and paints the sky,
A fiery hue that makes me sigh.
The stars come out and twinkle bright,
A night of rest, a peaceful sight.

Correct Example:

The Odyssey (excerpt) by Homer:

Tell me, O muse, of that ingenious hero,
Who traveled far and wide after the Trojan War.
He saw the cities of many men, and knew their minds,
And suffered many pains in his heart on the deep.

Narrative Poetry Guidelines:

1. Tells a story.
2. Has a beginning, middle, and end.
3. Uses poetic devices (imagery, metaphor, etc.).
4. Can be short or long.
5. Often has characters, setting, and plot.

Types of Narrative Poetry:

1. Epic Poetry (long, heroic stories).
2. Ballad (folkloric, often with refrains).
3. Lyric Narrative (personal, emotional stories).
4. Free Verse Narrative (experimental, non-rhyming).

Key Elements:

1. Plot (sequence of events).
2. Character development.
3. Setting (time and place).
4. Conflict (problem or challenge).
5. Resolution (conclusion).

Famous Narrative Poets:

1. Homer (The Iliad and The Odyssey).
2. Virgil (The Aeneid).
3. John Milton (Paradise Lost).
4. Robert Browning (The Ring and the Book).

Tips for Writing Narrative Poetry:

1. Choose a compelling story.
2. Develop engaging characters.
3. Use vivid imagery.
4. Experiment with poetic devices.
5. Revise for clarity and flow.

Narrative poetry captivates readers with its storytelling power.

Additional Resources:

- Homer's "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey"
- Virgil's "The Aeneid"
- John Milton's "Paradise Lost"
- Robert Browning's "The Ring and the Book"
- Narrative poetry examples and workshops online.





NOTES FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Incorrect v/s Correct

Incorrect Example:

Beautiful sunset fade
Golden hues upon the sea
Peaceful evening sky

Correct Example:

Snowflakes gently fall
Blanketing the winter scene
Winter's peaceful hush

This Haiku adheres to the traditional 5-7-5 syllable structure and captures a moment in time, using sensory language and avoiding rhyme.

Here's a breakdown:

- Line 1 (5 syllables): Snowflakes gently fall
- Line 2 (7 syllables): Blanketing the winter scene
- Line 3 (5 syllables): Winter's peaceful hush

Traditional Haiku guidelines:

1. 5-7-5 syllable structure.
2. Present tense.
3. Non-rhyming.
4. Nature-inspired.
5. Captures a moment.
6. Sensory language.

Yosa Buson's "Thirteen Haiku" is a classic collection, showcasing mastery of this traditional form.



Happy Learning! :)

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