

TYPES OF POETRY

Poetry is a wonderful way to express yourself because there are so many ways to go about it. You can say exactly what you mean, in as many or as few lines so as you like, or you can NOT say exactly what you mean at all, but only allude to it by images and sounds to create pictures or feelings in the reader. There are many different types of poetry. Some of them have very strict rules about what makes them the type they are. Others have no rules at all!

Read the rules below for different types of poetry. Then read the poems on the next page and see if you can identify the type of poem that it is.



A **sonnet** is a poem of fourteen lines that can have any of a number of formal rhyme schemes. There are usually ten syllables per line.

Free verse is poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter. It relies on imagery, alliteration, etc. to convey meaning.

A **limerick** is a five-line poem with a specific rhyme and meter. The rhyme scheme is AABBA. The first, second and fifth lines have three feet each with the following stressed (S) and unstressed (U) syllables: USUUSUUS. The third and fourth lines have two feet each with the following stressed (S) and unstressed (U) syllables: USUUS.

Haiku is Japanese form of poetry usually reflecting on nature and feelings. There are three lines in a Haiku. The first has five syllables, the second seven syllables, and the third has five syllables.

In **Acrostic** poems, the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. In most cases the word spelled by the first letters is the subject of the poem.

A **Cinquain** has five lines.

Line 1: Title (noun) - 1 word; Line 2: Description - 2 words;
Line 3: Action - 3 words; Line 4: Feeling (phrase) - 4 words;
Line 5: Title (synonym for the title) - 1 word.



1. Dog

Dog
Goofy, furry
Barks, grins, licks
Snuggle, romp, wet kisses
Hound

What kind of poem is this?

2. Rain

Pitter, patter pit
Pitter, patter, crash, flash, boom
Rat-a-tat-tat-tat

What kind of poem is this?

3. Spring

Sunshine
Playgrounds full of laughter
Rain falls
Imagination blooms
New beginning
Grass grows again

What kind of poem is this?

4. What's for Dinner?

There once was a girl from Peru
Who wanted to cook up a stew
She gave it a shot
She filled up a pot
But ended instead with fondue!

What kind of poem is this?

5. At the Table

I ate a bowl of Cheerios today
With strawberries and blueberries on top
It should have kept my huge hunger at bay
Instead, I ate, and found I couldn't stop!

And so I had to fill the bowl again
This time I sliced bananas for a treat
My mother saw and asked me to explain
I said I couldn't get enough to eat!

I started then to pour myself a third
I contemplated raspberries this time
But then my mother stopped me with a word
My favorite kind of pie, she said "key lime"!

Next time I think that I'll be on alert
I'll skip breakfast and go right for dessert!

What kind of poem is this?



6. The Heron

Grey, elongated, letter S
Graceful in the sky
Soaring low, eyes on the horizon.

What kind of poem is this?
