

Name:

Date:

POETRY GUIDE

TOOL BOX



SYLLABLE

A basic unit of sound in a word. Some poems are measured by numbers of syllables.

syl - la - ble



RHYME

Words with the same (or similar) ending sounds.

*an orange owl
sat on a towel*



ALLITERATION

Repeating the same beginning sound.

snakes slithered swiftly south



SIMILE

Comparing two things using "like" or "as."

as quick as a cat



LINE

One row of text. Lines are not always a complete sentence or thought.

*flowers,
pink fragrant
bloom*



RHYTHM

The beat and pattern of a poem. It makes you tap your foot.

*drip, drop, drip, drip, drop
the drip drop won't stop*



ONOMATOPOEIA

Words that imitate sounds

Click! Boom! Splash!



STANZA

A group of lines that set apart from other groups of lines. (Like a paragraph in an essay.)



REPETITION

A word or phrase that is repeated.

*the frog jumped
Splash! Splash! Splash!*



HYPERBOLE

Using exaggeration to add drama.

I could eat a horse.



METAPHOR

Comparing two unlike things using the word "is."

She is a bear when she's mad.



IMAGERY

Using descriptive language to help the reader form a picture in their mind.

*The crystalline water shimmered
in the sunlight.*

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DIRECTIONS: As you read the poems below, identify at least one example of each of the elements from the poetry tool box: *syllable, line, stanza, rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, and imagery.*

HINT: Use a highlighter and pencil to mark up the text as you read.

Haiku

Summer has faded
Leaves falling, falling, falling
Autumn has begun

Diamante

rain
pitter patter
falling on my nose
the clouds part, out comes the sun

puddles disappear
oh look! a
rainbow

Cinquain

Spring
Green, growth
Budding, blooming, beaming
Shaking off winter's chill
Rebirth

Ballad

The first loud blast that he did blow,
He blew both loud and shrill;
A hundred and fifty of Robin Hood's men
Came riding over the hill.

The next loud blast that he did give,
He blew both loud and main,
And quickly sixty of Robin Hood's men
Came shining over the plain.

Sonnet

My silly dog, Spot, makes me laugh aloud
chasing his tail or barking at wind.
But, when I walk him through town, he's so proud
like a blue ribbon horse, he'd surely win.

Spot is faithful, as every dog should be.
He's a palace guard, his eyes on the door
watching over and protecting me –
no one on the planet could love me more.

He cuddles and comforts me as I sleep,
gives wet kisses if I have a bad dream.
He's never far, by my side he does keep
and when we play ball, we're always a team.

He's been with me since the day I was born,
the first face I see when I wake e'ry morn.

Limerick

There once was a little green frog
who lived in a wet, muddy bog
she leaped up one day
said, "it's time to play!"
and jumped on a train bound for Prague

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Learn about the history and structure of these six popular types of poetry!

UNRHYMED POEMS

Haiku

A three-line poem with a total of 17 syllables. The first and last lines have five syllables each, while the middle line has seven syllables. Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. These poems are used to describe nature.

Diamante

An unrhymed poem with seven lines. These poems are written in a diamond shape, with the first and last lines being the shortest. Diamante poems are often used to compare two subjects.

Cinquain

A five-line poem with a total of 22 syllables. The first and last lines have only two syllables each. These poems often tell a story, with a focus on imagery and the natural world.

RHYMING POEMS

Ballad

A rhyming poem that is written about a heroic event or a love story. Ballads are typically written in stanzas with four lines each. Traditional ballads use an ABCB rhyme scheme.

Sonnet

A rhymed poem, typically celebrating love. The most famous sonnets are written by William Shakespeare. Traditional sonnets have 14 lines with 10 syllables in each line and a specific rhyme scheme: ABAB/CDCD/EFEF/GG

Limerick

A humorous five-line poem with an AABBA rhyme scheme. The third and fourth lines are usually shorter than the other three. Limericks often begin with the phrase “there once was...”