

# Poetry Notebook

**This Notebook Belongs to:**

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What is Poetry?

**Poetry...**

- . is a short piece of imaginative writing.*
- . expresses personal experiences and feelings.*
- . teaches us about the richness of our language.*
- . comes in different forms and styles.*
- . often has rhythm and rhyme.*

. *often intended to be read aloud.*

## **Acrostic Poetry**

*Definition:* A poem in which certain letters of the lines, usually the first letters, form a word or message relating to the subject.

Examples:

Sarah

**Shares her time  
And  
Resources  
Always  
Helping**

Biography Poem

A biography poem is a poem about you. The poem does not require a rhyme scheme, but does follow a specific form. This poem tells your readers facts about yourself and many of your feelings.

## Example

Jason  
Happy, Funny, Smart, Shy  
Son of Paul and Holly  
Lover of books, parks, and ice cream cones  
Who feels wearing your pajamas until 10 am is okay,  
milk tastes gross, and Grandmas are special  
Who fears spiders, falling down, and nightmares  
Who would like to see Grandma's House, the library,  
and garage sales  
Resident of Ohio  
Mae

## Biography Poem Form

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your First Name)

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(4 adjectives that describe you)

Line 3: Son or Daughter of \_\_\_\_\_

Line 4: Lover of \_\_\_\_\_

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(List 3 things that you love)

Line 5: Who feels \_\_\_\_\_

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(List 3 things you feel strongly about)

Line 6: Who fears \_\_\_\_\_

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(List 3 things you fear or worry about)

Line 7: Who would like to see \_\_\_\_\_

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(List 3 places or things you would like to see)

Line 8: Resident of \_\_\_\_\_

(Where you live?)

Line 9: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your Last Name)

## **Couplet**

A style of poetry defined as a complete thought written in two lines with rhyming ends. William Shakespeare's trademark was to end a sonnet with a couplet.

Examples:

But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,  
all losses are restored and sorrows end.

- William Shakespeare

### **Stone Airplane**

I made an airplane out of stone...

I always did like staying home.

-Shel Silverstein, Falling Up

## **Quatrain**

**Definition:** A style of poetry that is a group of four lines unified by a rhyme scheme. Quatrains usually follow an abab, aabb, aaaa, or abcb rhyme scheme.

Examples:

#### **The Sack Race**

Yes, it's time for the sack race (a)

Yes, I'm ready to go. (b)

Yes, it's my first sack race (a)

How did you know...? (b)

- Shel Silverstein, Falling Up

#### **Red Flowers For You**

They could be poison ivy, (a)

They might be poison oak, (b)

But anyway, here's your bouquet! (c)

Hey – can't you take a joke? (b)

- Shel Silverstein, Falling Up

## **Limerick**

**Definition:** A five line poem where the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme and so do the third and fourth. The first, third, and fifth have the same verbal rhythm (meter) and length (3 beats), and so do the second and fourth (2 beats). This form is a five-line poem written in anapestic rhythm (a metrical foot composed of two short syllables followed by a long one).

Examples:

**My Beard**

My beard grows to my toes,  
 I never wears no clothes,  
 I wraps my hair  
 Around my bare  
 And down the road I goes.  
 -Shel Silverstein, Where the Sidewalk  
 Ends

**Crowded Tub**

There's too many kids in this tub.  
 There's too many elbows to scrub.  
 I just washed a behind  
 That I'm sure wasn't mine,  
 There's too many kids in the tub.  
 -Shel Silverstein, A Light in the Attic

## Haiku

Definition: The haiku is a Japanese verse in three lines. Line one has 5 syllables, line two has 7 syllables, and line three has 5 syllables. The haiku is written to praise nature. It has no rhyme, metaphors, or simile.

Examples:

The sunset glows bright  
 Bringing beauty to the world  
 When its not cloudy

Goldfish swim slowly  
 Happy in the cool water  
 Looking for good food

## Simile

Definition: A simile is a figure of speech that expresses a resemblance between things of different kinds using a comparative word "like" or "as". The two things being compared are not alike in most ways, but are similar in one important way.

Examples:

He walked as quiet as a mouse. (In other words, he walked really quiet.)

He slept like a rock. (In other words, he slept without a sound.)

## Metaphor

**Definition:** A metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to compare dissimilar objects that are alike in some way. Metaphors do not use the words “like” or “as”.

Examples:

The man’s hair was bone white. (In other words, his hair was extremely white.)

The goalkeeper was a rock. (In other words, he was solid.)

## Alliteration

**Definition:** The repetition of the same sound, usually of a consonant, at the beginning of two or more words immediately succeeding each other or at short intervals. On some occasions the sound is similar, but the letters are different (i.e. city and seal.) Alliteration is not used just in poetry, but is also used in other forms of writing.

Examples:

One wet wellington walked on water  
Two tired travelers tried to talk  
Three thick thorns thought thick thorn thoughts  
Four frantic fish fought for flat fish fins  
Five fit flies flew forward fast

Six slow snails saw swooping sparrows  
Seven sneaky snakes slid slyly and silently  
Eight eating earwigs eat an entire egg  
Nine naughty nettles nick nice knockers  
Ten tall tornadoes tear tiny tents.

## Onomatopoeia

Definition: Words that sound like their meanings (i.e. slurped, clucked, bashed, gurgled) or words that demonstrate sound effects, such as buzz, hiss, plop, pow.

Example:

The Fourth

Oh

CRASH!

My

BASH!

It's

BANG!

The

ZANG!

Fourth

WHOOSH!

Of

BAROOOM!

July

WHEW!

-Shel Silverstein, Where the Sidewalk Ends