

# Learning About **Poetry**

Poetry is a special kind of writing written in verse to make a reader feel an emotion or think a certain thought. Poems often have rhythm and use rhyme.

Next



# Parts of a Poem

## title

*introduces the topic of the poem*

## stanza

*a group of lines in a poem*

## space

*the break between each stanza in the poem*

## verse

*a line in a poem within each stanza*

## The Rainbow

*by: Christina Rossetti*

Boats sail on the rivers,  
And ships sail on the seas;  
But clouds that sail across the sky  
Are prettier than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,  
As pretty as you please;  
But the bow that bridges heaven,  
And overtops the trees,  
And builds a road from earth to sky,  
Is far prettier than these.



Next







# Poetry



Choose a category to get started:

Explore



Read It



Fun &  
Games

Write It



Click on this icon anywhere  
you see it to always return  
to this homepage.

Search & Find







# Explore



Explore the major **types of poetry** and special **poetry elements** that poets use in their poems by clicking a category below:

## Types of Poetry

## Poetry Elements







# Types of Poetry

Click on a type of poem to learn more about it.

ballad

limerick

haiku

cinquain

shape




acrostic

bio

diamante

couplet

free verse

 [Back to Explore](#)





# ballad

**Ballad poems tell a story and usually have 4 lines per stanza.**

**example:**

## My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.



The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an India-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

*an except by: Robert Louis Stevenson*



**Back to Types of Poetry**





# **limerick**

**Limericks are humorous, five line poems. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> lines rhyme. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines rhyme.**

**example:**

There Was An Old Man With a Beard



There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, "It is just as I feared! --  
Two Owls and a Hen,  
Four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard."

*by: Edward Lear*



**Back to Types of Poetry**



# haiku

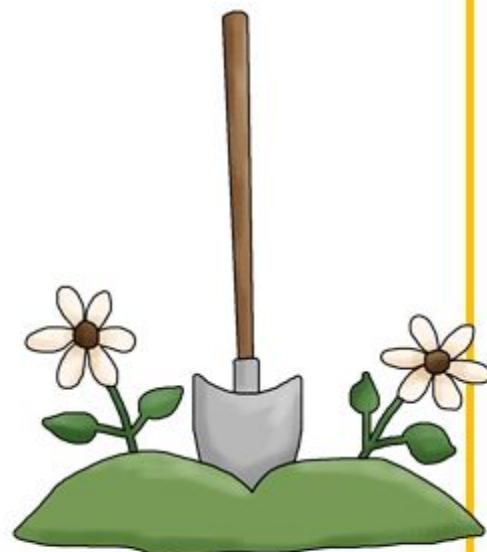
Haikus are Japanese poems, usually about nature. There are 3 lines, but does not rhyme. There are 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second line, and 5 in the third line.

example:

## Spring Time

Spring time is here now  
The flowers are blooming bright  
Time to grow again

*by: Rachael Parlett*



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# cinquain

**Cinquain poems have 5 lines:**

Line 1 - Topic - Noun (1 word)

Line 2 - Description (2 words)

Line 3 - Action (3 words)

Line 4 - A 4-word phrase about the noun

Line 5 - Synonym for topic (1 word)

**example:**

Bears

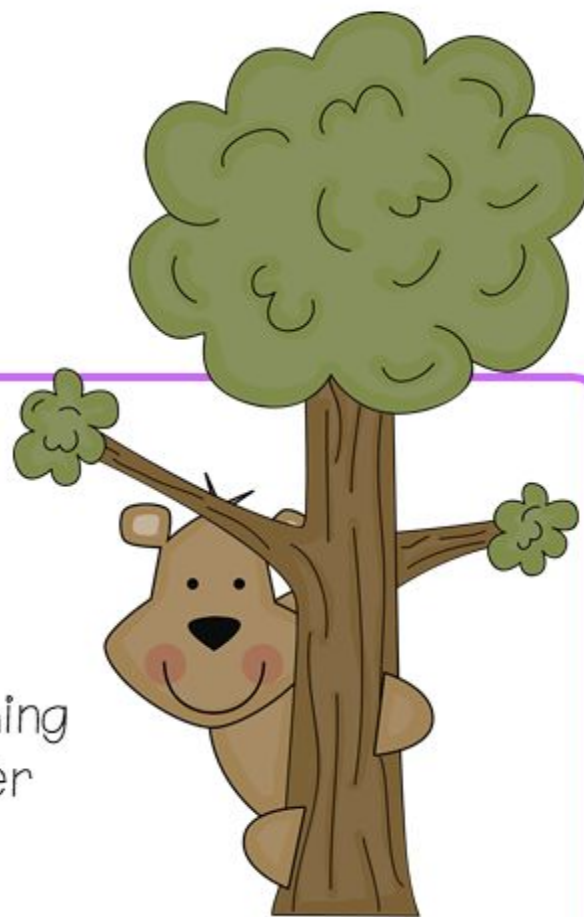
bear

brown, furry

growling, climbing, swimming

sleeps through the winter

omnivore



*by: Rachael Parlett*



**Back to Types of Poetry**





# shape

Shape poems are written in a shape that represents the topic of the poem.

example:

## Rain



Rain  
splashing on the  
window, getting everything  
wet. The sun is hiding behind the  
clouds, refusing to come out and shine again.  
I'll wait inside, till the rain goes away and I can  
go back outside to play. But for now I'll just be watching  
every  
drip  
drip  
drop  
drop  
splash  
plop  
rain drip  
drop

*by: Rachael Parlett*



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# acrostic

Acrostic poems are poems where the first letter of each line forms a word. The word is usually the topic of the poem and the phrases that go with each letter represent something about the topic.

example:

W hite snow

I cicles glimmering

N ose is cold

T oasty fire glowing

E veryone snuggles to stay warm

R eady for a snowball fight



*by: Rachael Parlett*



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# bio

Bio poems tell about the author's life. They include details about the author's personality and things that make the author a unique person.

example:



Rachael

Who is musical, creative, funny, loving

Daughter of David and Marsha

Lover of coffee and sweets

Who fears snakes and heights

Who needs love and happiness

Giver of knowledge and energy

Who would like to see peace and trust in the world

Resident of New York

Parlett

*by: Rachael Parlett*



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# diamante

**Diamante poems are 7 lines and are written in the shape of a diamond:**

**Line 1:** Topic - Noun

**Line 2:** Two adjectives to describe the first line

**Line 3:** Three action verbs to describe the first line

**Line 4:** Four nouns - the first 2 words describe the first line, the last 2 words describe the last line

**Line 5:** Three action words to describe the last line

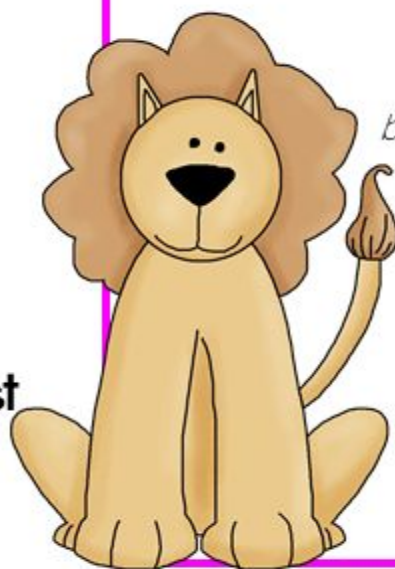
**Line 6:** Two adjectives to describe the last line

**Line 7:** Antonym of line one

**example:**

Lion  
Strong, Proud  
Pounces, Roars, Runs  
Mane, Teeth...Fleece, Fluff  
Leaps, Grazes, Rests  
Gentle, Quiet  
Lamb

*by: Rachael Parlett*



**Back to Types of Poetry**





# couplet

**A couplet is only 2 lines long in each stanza. Both lines rhyme and have the same number of syllables.**

example: \_\_\_\_\_

## Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again!



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# free verse

A free verse poem does not have to rhyme or follow specific rules. It can sound the way the author wants it to sound.

example:

Fall

Raking leaves into a pile  
They are blown by the wind  
    Falling  
        Falling  
            Falling  
We rake them up again



*by: Rachael Parlett*



Back to **Types of Poetry**





# Poetry Elements

Poets include important elements or features in their poems to make them come alive to the reader.

simile

metaphor

personification

onomatopoeia

hyperbole



alliteration

tone

symbolism

imagery

rhyme

 [Back to Explore](#)





# simile

Similes are used when a poet wants to make a comparison between two unlike things using the words like or as.

examples:

He was as  
hungry as a lion!



The poet is comparing a boy's appetite to a lion's.

We know that a lion has a big appetite, so this simile helps the reader to understand that the boy was very hungry!

The snow looked  
like a blanket  
covering the  
earth.



The poet is comparing the snow on the ground to a blanket.

We know that a blanket is used to cover something, so this simile helps the reader to understand how the snow looked as it started to cover the earth; like a snowy blanket!



Back to Poetry Elements





# metaphor

Metaphors are used when a poet wants to make a comparison between two unlike things **WITHOUT** using the words like or as.

examples:

A book is a good friend.



The poet is comparing a book to friendship.

We know that books can often keep us entertained and occupied, just like a friend can.

His words were a sharp sword to my heart.



The poet is comparing words that someone said to a sharp sword.

We know that a sharp sword can physically hurt someone, just like words that people say can hurt someone's feelings.



Back to Poetry Elements





# personification

Personification is when poets give human characteristics and qualities to non-human things like animals or objects.

## examples:

### An Autumn Greeting

"Come," said the Wind to the  
leaves one day.  
"Come over the meadow and we  
will play.  
Put on your dresses of red and  
gold.  
For summer is gone and the days  
grow cold."



The poet is giving wind the ability to speak to the leaves. We know that wind can't really talk, but the poem uses this personification to help the reader imagine the sounds of the wind and leaves blowing around in the fall. The poet also gives the leaves the ability to play. We know that leaves can't really play, but this personification helps the reader to imagine the leaves bouncing in the wind.



Back to Poetry Elements





# onomatopoeia

An onomatopoeia is when a poet uses words that imitate specific sounds. These words help us to better visualize and understand the poem.

examples:

Boom!



The poet uses the word "BOOM!" to describe the sound something is making. We know that a "boom" is a loud sound. Reading this word will help the reader to imagine the sound in their mind.

Woooooosh!



The poet uses the word "woooooosh" to describe the sound something is making. We know that the word "woooooosh" usually refers to something moving at a fast pace.

common onomatopoeias found in poetry:

- |        |         |          |        |        |         |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
| • zoom | • swish | • hiss   | • oink | • snap | • boink |
| • pop  | • buzz  | • gobble | • yelp | • bam  | • click |



Back to Poetry Elements





# hyperbole

A hyperbole is when a poet makes a huge exaggeration about something.

examples:

I've told you "no" a million times!



The poet is exaggerating the number of times the narrator has said "no." The poet does this in order to help the reader understand that the narrator has said "no" a lot.

I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse!



The poet is exaggerating how hungry the narrator is. The narrator couldn't *actually* eat a horse, but this sentence helps the reader to know that the narrator is VERY hungry.



Back to Poetry Elements





# alliteration

Alliteration is when a poet uses repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of several words listed in a row.

examples:

Terra tickled  
Tommy's toes.



The poet repeats the "t" consonant sound. This repetition makes the poem fun to read!

Peter picked a  
peck of peppers.



The poet repeats the "p" consonant sound. This repetition gives the reader a tongue twister!



Back to Poetry Elements





# tone

**Tone is the mood or feeling that the poet wants the reader to experience when reading his or her poem.**

**example:**

## Elelelephony

*by: Laura Elizabeth Richards*

Once there was an elephant,  
Who tried to use the telephant—  
No! No! I mean an elephone  
Who tried to use the telephone—  
(Dear me! I am not certain quite  
That even now I've got it right.)  
Howe'er it was, he got his trunk  
Entangled in the telephunk;  
The more he tried to get it free,  
The louder buzzed the telephee—  
(I fear I'd better drop the song  
Of elephop and telephong!)



**The poet of this poem is trying to set a silly tone.**

She uses silly, made-up words and is talking about a silly topic: an elephant using a telephone.



**Back to Poetry Elements**





# symbolism

Symbolism is when a poet uses an action, person, place, word, or object in their poem to represent something else.

example:

## Two Roads

*by: Rachael Parlett*

Today I stand between two roads.  
One goes wrong, the other right.  
Which one will I choose tonight?

If I choose the road to wrong,  
I know there will be a price to pay.  
Choosing right would lead me the right way.

Today I stand between two roads.  
Now's the time to make my choice.  
I must listen to the right voice.



The poet of this poem uses the two roads to represent making life's choices. In the poem, the narrator has to make a choice to do the right thing or the wrong thing. By using roads to represent these choices, the poet helps the reader to understand that making tough choices will lead us down different pathways in life; some good, some bad.

## common symbols found in poetry:

- rainbows often symbolize hope
- doves often symbolize peace
- sunrises often symbolize new beginnings
- the color red often symbolizes love



Back to Poetry Elements





# imagery

**Imagery is when a poet chooses words that he/she thinks will help the reader create a mental picture. The poet uses sensory words that give more detail about the topic of the poem.**

## examples:

The green snake quietly  
slithered across the dusty  
ground.



The poet of this poem describes in detail how the snake is moving. We can imagine the color of the snake, the quiet slithering sound it is making, and picture what it looks like as it moves.

Hot, wet tears streamed  
down my face as I  
watched her drive away.



The imagery in this poem helps us to understand the sadness that the narrator is feeling. We can imagine the tears running down the face of the narrator and picture a car driving away.



**Back to Poetry Elements**





# rhyme

Rhyme is when two or more words have the same ending sounds. Poets often rhyme the last words on some lines in their poems.

example:

## Caterpillar

*by: Christina Rossetti*

Brown and furry  
Caterpillar in a hurry,  
Take your walk  
To the shady leaf, or stalk,  
Or what not,  
Which may be the chosen spot.  
No toad spy you,  
Hovering bird of prey pass by you;  
Spin and die,  
To live again a butterfly.



The poet of this poem rhymes the first and second lines together, the third and fourth lines together, and so on. For example: *Furry* rhymes with *hurry* and *walk* rhymes with *stalk*.



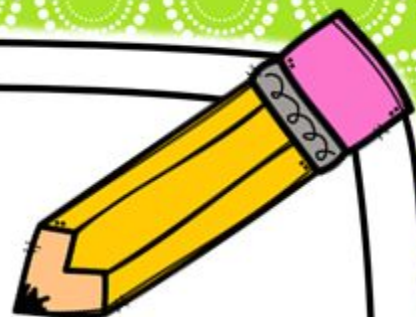
Back to Poetry Elements





# Write It!

Write your own poetry!



## Choose a Type of Poem:

CLICK HERE  
to review the types of poem.

ballad  
limerick  
haiku  
cinquain  
shape  
acrostic  
bio  
diamante  
couplet  
free verse

## Choose a Topic

Here are some ideas to  
get you started:

an animal  
a season  
yourself  
a memory  
a holiday  
friendship  
weather  
a vacation  
your family  
school

## Include Several Poetry Elements:

CLICK HERE  
to review each element.

rhyme  
imagery  
symbolism  
tone  
alliteration  
hyperbole  
personification  
metaphor  
simile  
onomatopoeia

Write your poems on the  
"Write It!" page of your flipbook.





# Read It!



Click on a poem title to read it:

**Clouds**



*by: Christina Rossetti*

**The Purple Cow**

*by: Gelett Burgess*



**At the Zoo**



*by: William Makepeace  
Thackeray*



**The Duck and the  
Kangaroo**

*by: Edward Lear*



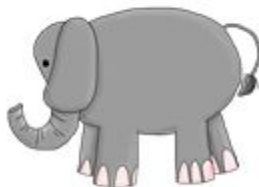
**The Quangle  
Wangle's Hat**

*by: Edward Lear*



**Eletelephony**

*by: Laura Elizabeth Richards*



**Wind on  
the Hill**

*by: A.A. Milne*



Check out the "Read It!"  
page of your flipbook for tips  
on reading poetry





# Clouds

*by: Christina Rossetti*



White sheep, white sheep,  
On a blue hill,  
When the wind stops,  
You all stand still.  
When the wind blows,  
You walk away slow.  
White sheep, white sheep,  
Where do you go?



Back to **Read It!**





# At the Zoo

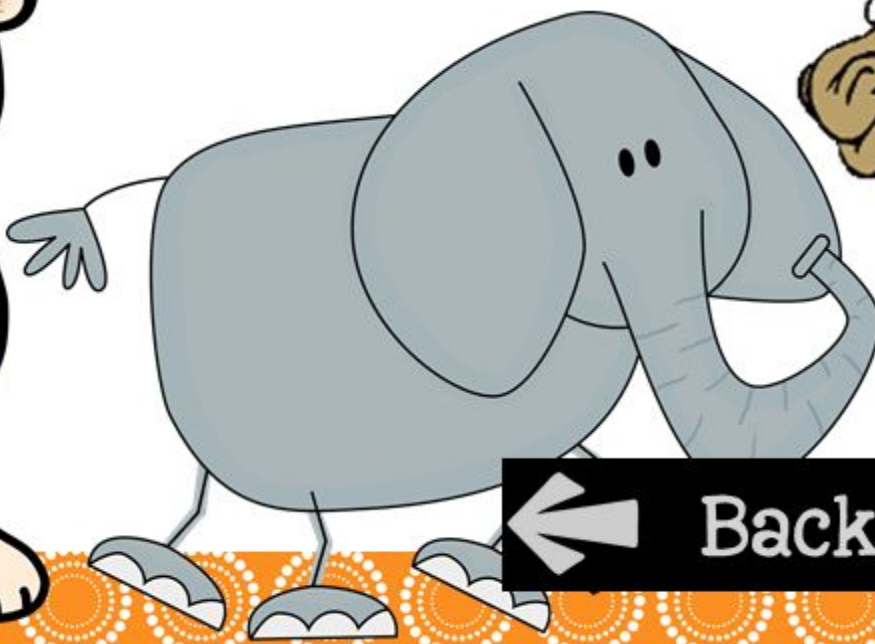
*by: William Makepeace Thackeray*

First I saw the white bear, then I saw the black;  
Then I saw the camel with a hump upon his back;  
Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw;

Then I saw the wombat waddle in the straw;

Then I saw the elephant a-waving of his trunk;

Then I saw the monkeys-mercy, how unpleasantly they-smelt!



Back to **Read It!**





# The Purple Cow

*by: Gelett Burgess*

I never saw a Purple Cow,  
I never hope to see one,  
But I can tell you, anyhow,  
I'd rather see than be one!



Back to **Read It!**



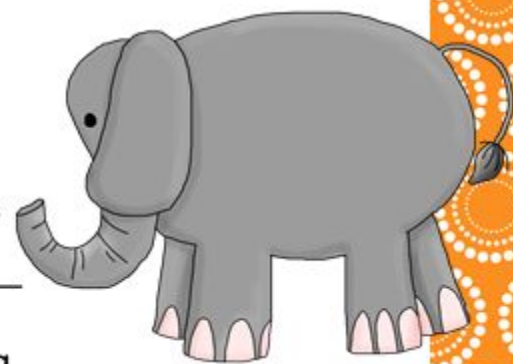


# Eletelephony

*by: Laura Elizabeth Richards*



Once there was an elephant,  
Who tried to use the telephant—  
No! No! I mean an elephone  
Who tried to use the telephone—  
(Dear me! I am not certain quite  
That even now I've got it right.)  
Howe'er it was, he got his trunk  
Entangled in the telephunk;  
The more he tried to get it free,  
The louder buzzed the telephee—  
(I fear I'd better drop the song  
Of elephop and telephong!)



**Back to Read It!**





# The Duck and the Kangaroo

*excerpt by: Edward Lear*



Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,  
‘Good gracious! How you hop!  
Over the fields and the water too,  
As if you never would stop!  
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,  
And I long to go out in the world beyond!  
I wish I could hop like you!’  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.



Back to Read It!





# The Quangle Wangle's Hat

*excerpt by: Edward Lear*



On the top of the Crumpetty Tree  
The Quangle Wangle sat,  
But his face you could not see,  
On account of his beaver hat.  
For his hat was a hundred and two feet wide,  
With ribbons and bibbons on every side  
And bells, and buttons, and loops, and lace,  
So that nobody ever could see the face  
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.



Back to **Read It!**





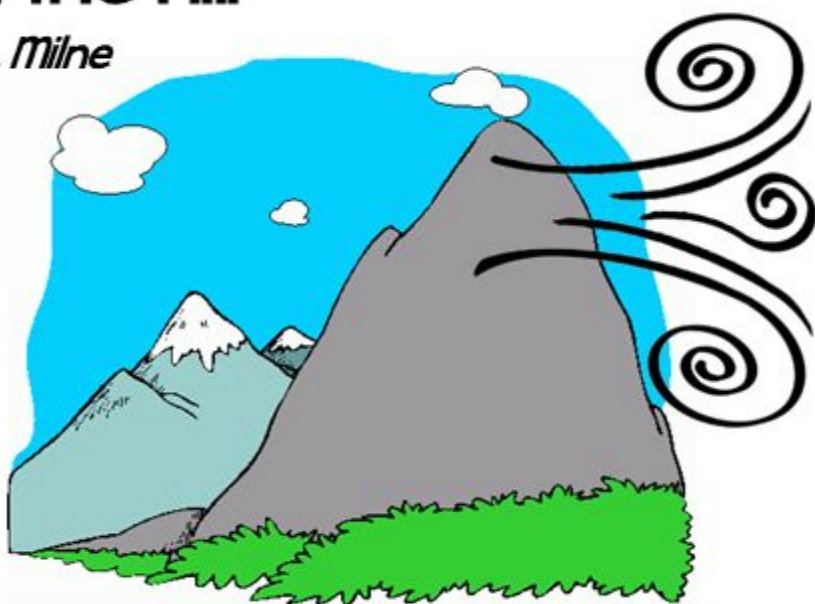
# Wind on the Hill

*by: A.A. Milne*

No one can tell me,  
Nobody knows,  
Where the wind comes from,  
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere  
As fast as it can,  
I couldn't keep up with it,  
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding  
The string of my kite,  
It would blow with the wind  
For a day and a night.



And then when I found it,  
Wherever it blew,  
I should know that the wind  
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them  
Where the wind goes...  
But where the wind comes from  
Nobody knows.



**Back to Read It!**





# Search & Find



Look through the poem books that your teacher has provided for you to search for the following poetry elements:



Find a poem that shows personification.



Find a poem that rhymes.



Find a poem that uses an onomatopoeia.



Find a poem that uses a simile.



Find a poem that shows strong imagery.



Find a poem that uses a hyperbole.



Find a poem that uses an alliteration.



Find a poem that uses a metaphor.

Record your findings on the "Search & Find" page of your flipbook.





# Fun & Games



Explore poetry even more through these videos and websites!

Click [HERE](#) to read poems written by other kids!



Read poems written by well-known children's poet:



Jack Prelutsky

CLICK [HERE](#) for Set 1



Create a poem with magnetic poetry!

To create poems on the site, you will drag the words you want for your poem from the word list on the right-hand side into the center of the screen. You will be able to click on "more words" to get a fresh set of words for your poem.

Listen/watch poems read by Shel Silverstein:



CLICK [HERE](#) for Set 2

