Poetic forms

Below you will find descriptions and examples of different "poetic forms," or different types of poems. Feel free to try and write any of these types of poems, or come up with your own form! For Camp Cooper videos and more fun activities, point your smart phone camera at this QR code and visit our website.



Acrostic or Name Poem

Each letter of a name is used as the first letter for a line of the poem.

Can't touch, Always stickery. Careful! Tough, green skin, Uses little water, Spines instead of leaves.

Couplet

A two line poem. This may be part of a larger poem, or may be a standalone poem!

Hawk, I watch you soar the sky, Oh, I wish I, too could fly.

Tercet

A three line poem. This may be part of a larger poem, or may be a standalone poem!

A bird sits up high in a tree, I sneak up on it, But off it flees.

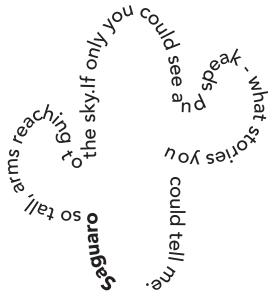
Quatrain

A four line poem. This may be part of a larger poem, or may be a standalone poem!

Can you see the heat waves Rise from the sand? Air shimmering, wavering, Baking the land.

Pattern Poem

The poem is written in the shape of the poem's main idea.





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Haiku

Structure:

This a Japanese poetic form of three structured lines. Line 1: 5 syllables Line 2: 7 syllables Line 3: 5 syllables Coyote howling His brother barks an answer The moon shines brightly

Tanka

Structure:

This poetic form is similar to the haiku, with two more lines added.

Limerick

This is a short, funny poem which follows a specific structure and rhyme scheme.

Structure:

Line 1: longer, rhyme A Line 2: longer, rhyme A Line 3: shorter, rhyme B Line 4: shorter, rhyme B Line 5: longer, rhyme A

Line 1: 5 syllablesSonoran DesertLine 2: 7 syllablesSun-baked land 'neath cloudless sky.Line 3: 5 syllablesCoyote, rabbitLine 4: 7 syllablesHide under palo verdeLine 5: 7 syllablesWaiting for the cool night air.

Open Form

This type of poem doesn't follow any specific structure or rhyme scheme.

Little desert tortoise, With your smoothy shiny, shell. I only see you On rainy days, When the plants are Happy To have a drink of water.

There once was a girl who loved snakes. She tried feeding them candy and cakes. But the snakes slithered away And she heard one of them say, "We prefer mice, goodness sakes!"

