

Poetic forms

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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!

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 sticky.
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.

so tall, arms reaching out
to the sky. If only you could see a
saguaro
could tell me
what stories you
could speak -



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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.

Line 1: 5 syllables
Line 2: 7 syllables
Line 3: 5 syllables
Line 4: 7 syllables
Line 5: 7 syllables

***Sonoran Desert
Sun-baked land 'neath cloudless sky.
Coyote, rabbit
Hide under palo verde
Waiting for the cool night air.***

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

***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!"***

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.***

