

Basic Types of Poems

ACROSTIC:

In Acrostic poems, the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is the subject of the poem.

An example is-

M arvelously selfless
O rganizing our lives
T eaching their children
H elping the next generation
E ncouraging us to be our best
R ecognizing what is most important.

ALPHABET:

Each line begins with the letters of the alphabet in order.

An example -

The ABCs of Friendship

*Always be honest.
Be there when they need you most.
Cheer them on.
Don't look for their faults.
Every chance you get, call!
Forgive them.
Get together often.
Have faith in them.
Include them.
Just being a friend can be enough.
Know their dreams.
Listen without always talking.
Make them feel special.
Never forget them.
Offer to help.
Praise them honestly.
Quietly disagree.
Rescue them when necessary.
Say you're sorry.
Talk frequently.
Use good judgement.
Vocalize your feelings.
Wish them good luck!
eXchange your time.
You can depend on each other.
Zip your mouth when necessary.*

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL:

Write a poem about yourself using this form or another poetry form.

- Line 1: ___ Your name
Line 2: __, __, __ 3 personal characteristics or physical traits
Line 3: Brother or sister of ___ or son/daughter of ___
Line 4: Who loves __, __, and __ 3 people, things, ideas
Line 5: Who feels ___ about ___ 1 emotion about 1 thing
Line 6: Who needs __, __, and __ 3 things you need
Line 7: Who gives __, __, and __ 3 objects you share
Line 8: Who fears __, __, and __ 3 items
Line 9: Who'd like to see, __, 1 place, or person

Line 10: Who dreams of ___ 1 item or idea
Line 11: A student of ___ your school or teacher's name
Line 12: ___ Nickname or repeat your first name

CINQUAIN: Cinquains have five lines:

- Line 1: Title (noun) - 1 word
Line 2: Description - 2 words
Line 3: Action - 3 words
Line 4: Feeling (phrase) - 4 words
Line 5: Title (synonym for the title) - 1 word

An example is -

Sports
Entertaining, engaging
Filled with excitement
Never the same ending
Games

COLOR:

A poem about your favorite color. Express your feelings about a single color with analogies or similes or list nouns which are (or remind you of) that color. Another easy form is to use the 5 senses-looks like, sounds like, smells like, tastes like, feels like.

Color looks like
Color sounds like
Color smells like
Color tastes like
Color feels like

An example is -

Orange

Orange is feeling in your stomach after an orange soda quenched your thirst.

Orange is the sun after a summer day.

Orange is the sound of a field filled with dandelions blowing in the wind.

Orange is the taste of a pizza that just came out of the oven.

Orange is the sound of a busy bumblebee.

Orange is the taste of cold glass of orange juice.

Orange is the feeling inside you when you accomplish something.

Orange is the sound of a tomato plant growing.

Orange is the color of a carrot that just popped out of the ground.

Orange is the smell of a Tiger-Lily petal.

Orange is the feeling after a baby smiles.

Orange is the color of a brown beaver's incisor.

Orange is the smell of a late July day.

Orange is the feeling of a puppy's fur.

Orange is the color of peach marmalade on a side of toast.

Orange is the sound of a canoe paddling through shallow water.

Orange is a color that is safe and alive.

DIAMANTE:

The Diamante is a form similar to the Cinquain. The text forms the shape of a diamond.

Line 1: Noun or subject - one word

Line 2: Two Adjectives that describe line 1

Line 3: Three 'ing words that describe line 1

Line 4: Four nouns - the first two are connected with line 1; the last two are connected with line 7

Line 5: Three 'ing words that describe line 7

Line 6: Two adjectives that describe line 7

Line 7: Noun Synonym for the subject

An example is-

Pencil

Sharp, skinny

Writing, answering, erasing

Wood, lead, ink, plastic

Drawing, smudging, leaking

Durable, comfortable

Pen

HAIKU:

Haiku is Japanese poetry that reflects on nature and feelings. You use your observation skills to write what you see in a new or different way.

There are three lines with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second, and five syllables in the third.

