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 about1 emotion about 1 thing
Line 6: Who needs,, and 3 things you need
Line 7: Who gives,, and3 objects you share
Line 8: Who fears,, and3 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.

The chickadee sits Quietly on the tree branch Watching life unfold.

LIES:

A lies poem is a chance to describe something in ways that are not true! Each line contains an outrageous lie but each line is not meant to be mean or hurtful.

I love grey, rainy days and I despise bright brilliant sunshine.

Furry, friendly dogs annoy me with their tails wagging happily.

What could be worse than creamy, melting ice cream on a hot summer day?

My students love endless piles of homework and I enjoy composing wordy pages of report cards.

My friends annoy me constantly because I prefer selfish, hurtful people.

Maybe we can all enjoy a long, sleepless night in the dark?

LIMERICK:

A limerick has five lines. The last words of lines one, two, and five rhyme. The last words of lines three and four rhyme as well. Limericks are usually playful in nature.

An example is -

"There was an old man from Peru Who dreamed he was eating his shoe He awoke in the night With a terrible fright To discover it was totally true."

SHAPE (or CONCRETE):

Shape poems are made up of words that have been placed in such a way that they make the shape of an object and also use words to describe the object.

Start by making a simple outline of the shape or object (an animal, a football, a fruit etc.) large enough to fill a piece of paper. Then brainstorm a minimum of ten words and phrases that describe the shape. List action and feeling words as well. Next, decide where your words are going to be placed so that they outline your shape but also fit well together. Separate words and phrases with commas.



