

Poetry Book Definitions

Ode Poem:

An ode is a serious and dignified poem that honors and celebrates something or someone important to the author. There is no rhyming scheme but it is rich in sensory images.

Haiku Poem:

The Haiku is a Japanese poetry form that depicts everyday observations and simple life experiences. Japanese haikus are written in seventeen Japanese characters. Most English haikus consist of three lines in which the first line contains five syllables, the second seven syllables, and the third five syllables. Translations of Japanese haikus do not always follow English syllable requirements.

Cinquain Poem:

The cinquain was first used by Adelaide Crapsey. It consists of five lines. The syllables of the lines follow the pattern 2-4-6-8-2.

Limerick Poem:

The limerick is a funny poem that combines a couplet with a triplet. The first, second, and fifth lines rhyme. The third and fourth lines rhyme.

Skeltonic Verse:

Skeltonic Verse was popularized by John Skelton. It is also known as “tumbling verse.” It consists of short lines that continue a rhyme or near-rhyme for an indefinite number of lines until it flows into another rhyme or near-rhyme.

Concrete Poem:

In concrete or shape poetry, the author expresses thoughts in a visually appealing way, where words, ideas, type, and art combine to make pictures and patterns. You may have to turn the book—or your mind—sideways or upside down to read them!

Two-Voice Poem:

These poems are written to be read aloud by two readers at once, one taking the left-hand part, the other taking the right-hand part. The poems should be read from top to bottom, the two parts meshing as in a musical duet. When both readers have lines at the same horizontal level, those are to be spoken in unison.

Metered Poem:

Poems can have a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed beats, called meter. This pattern helps create mood by being fast or slow, calm or frenzied, for example. It can also imitate action or emphasize meaning or emotion.

Free Verse Poem:

When a poem has no meter or consistent pattern of stanzas present, it is called free verse. The author is free to express without the constraints of a set structure or rhythm.