

English/Topic

Today (Thursday 7th October) is National Poetry Day. In school we have shared some poems to celebrate this day.

This week, write a poem with a water (i.e. river) theme. This will be shared in class and poems will be presented on one of our display boards in school.

Think about which type of poem you would like to write and play around with the language and word choices before finalising your verse(s).

POEM TYPES

Poetry is used to express thoughts, emotion and ideas in an arrangement of words or verses. There are many types of poem, all of which have their own unique characteristics.

Acrostic

In an acrostic poem, each letter of the subject word is used to start a line of text relating to the topic.

Sunny summer afternoons,
Under clear blue skies,
Magical flowers bloom,
Making me smile,
Everyone happy,
Red roses everywhere.

Shape

A shape poem is written in the shape of the subject.

Clear blue skies darken, grey, clouds
 Round rain falls to the ground
 pitter pitter pitter pitter

The shape helps create a mental picture of what the poem is about.

Rap

Rap is a modern type of poetry that is often performed to music with a varied metre and a simple, repetitive beat.

Similes, metaphors and onomatopoeia are common, and rhymes are built within lines.

Limerick

A limerick is a five-line comic verse that follows the syllable pattern 8, 8, 6, 8, 8.

The first, second and last lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme.

Haiku

A haiku is an observational Japanese poem consisting of 17 unrhymed syllables split into three lines.

All along this road, ← 5 syllables
 Not a single soul – only ← 7 syllables
 Autumn evening comes. ← 5 syllables

Haiku are usually written in the present tense and contain two sections for comparison or contrast.

Cinquain

A traditional cinquain consists of 22 syllables split into five lines.

Cinquain ← 2 syllables
 A form of verse ← 4 syllables
 Five lines, of two and four ← 6 syllables
 Then six and eight and two to close ← 8 syllables
 Cinquain ← 2 syllables

Ballad

A ballad is a rhyming narrative poem that tells a story. It is structured in quick-moving, four-line stanzas (sections) that contain an 8, 6, 8, 6 beat pattern.

Due to their strong rhythm and rhyme, ballads often have a musical quality.

Sonnet

A sonnet has 14 lines structured in two stanzas of 8 and 6 lines or four stanzas of 4, 4, 4 and 2 lines.

Each line in a sonnet contains ten syllables and is written in iambic pentameter; five alternating stressed and unstressed syllables.

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Completion date: Tuesday 12th October 2021