

## TYPES OF POETRY

**Acrostic** – a poem developed by the letters of a word or name, which are used to begin the first word in each line of the poem

Example:

**H**appy go lucky  
**A**lways helping others  
**R**eally a good baseball player  
**O**ver 250 batting average  
**L**ikes pizza with lots of cheese  
**D**oesn't like bullies

**Narrative** – any poem that tells a story

Examples:

*John Barleycorn* By Robert Burns  
*Hiawatha* By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
*Charge Of The Light Brigade* By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**Lyric** – paints a picture with words using literary devices. It often has a musical quality and expresses personal emotions or thoughts

Example:

*The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*  
By Francis William Bourdillon  
The night has a thousand eyes,  
And the day but one;  
Yet the light of the bright world dies  
With the dying sun.  
The mind has a thousand eyes,  
And the heart but one.  
Yet the light of a whole life dies,  
When love is done.

**Ballad** – sometimes put to music that tells a story in a number of short regular stanzas, often with a refrain

Examples:

*The Ballad Of Sam McGee* By Robert William Service  
*The Ballad of William Sycamore* By Stephen Vincent Benet

**Elegy** – a poem about death or dying

Example:

*Elegy on His Cat* By Joachim Du Bellay

I have not lost my rings, my purse,  
My gold, my gems-my loss is worse,  
One that the stoutest heart must move.  
My pet, my joy, my little love,  
My tiny kitten, my Belaud,  
I lost, alas, three days ago.

**Sonnet** – a 14-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme, always ending with a couplet

Example:

*Sonnet 18* By William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest,  
Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest.  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

**Limerick** – a five line poem with a definite rhyme scheme and rhythm. The first, second, and fifth lines rhyme, as do the third and fourth. The meter, or rhythms are the same for the first, second, and fifth lines, while the third and fourth are shorter.

Example:

There once was a man from Peru,  
Who dreamed of eating his shoe,  
He awoke with a fright,  
In the middle of the night,  
And found that his dream had come true!

By Laura Black

**Haiku** – a Japanese poem consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables that is about some aspect of nature

Examples:

Blowing winter winds  
Cold and brittle, swirling high  
Freezing trees and air

Lush pretty blossoms  
Their sent perfumes the summer  
Pink and blue flowers

**Free Verse** – a poem that does not follow a specific rhythm or rhyme scheme

*I Dream'd in a Dream* By Walt Whitman

I DREAM'D in a dream I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the  
whole of the rest of the earth,  
I dream'd that was the new city of Friends,  
Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust love, it led  
the rest,  
It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city,  
And in all their looks and words.