

MISS MELINA'S POETRY WORKSHOP

Write your own poems with these easy to follow writing exercises. If you'd like to share what you have written, please snap a photo of your poem and email it to me at mlagios@sjlib.org. Thanks and remember to have fun!



Melina Lagios

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Alphabet Poems

Each line of an alphabet poem begins with a letter of the alphabet, listed in order. Alphabet poems do not have to rhyme and can be about any subject, silly or serious.

Here is an example of a simple alphabet poem:

Ants love

Battered

Chocolate

Doughnuts with

Earthworms and earwigs

Here is an example of a more complex alphabet poem:

Arms sprinkled with

Beach sand and hearts full of

Cravings for lingering summer

Days drenched in

Everlasting light

Write an Alphabet Poem

**Use any 5 letters of the alphabet that are in order
(example: A, B, C, D, E or L, M, N, O, P)**

ACROSTIC POEMS

Acrostic poems can be written in different ways and can be about any subject. The simplest way to write an acrostic poem is to line up the letters vertically to form a word. The word is the subject of the poem.

This is an example of a simple acrostic poem:

Sensational

Twinkling

Amazing

Radiant

Supreme

This is an example of a more complex acrostic poem with the same subject:

Stars in the night sky

Twinkle far in the distance

Against a black back drop of

Radiance, wonder, and invisible

Summer heat

Write 2 Acrostic Poems

1 about a favorite thing and

1 about a favorite person

COLLOM LUNE POEMS

A Collom lune poem was first created by poet Jack Collom. It's inspired by haiku. Instead of being syllable-based, a Collom lune is a short word-based poem with a structure of 3/5/3. There are 3 words in the first line, 5 words in the second line, and 3 words in the final line.

Line 1 = 3 words

Line 2 = 5 words

Line 3 = 3 words

This is an example of a Collom lune poem:

Fifth Grade Class

In one room

Bullies and best friends together

September through June

Write 2 Collom Lune Poems

1 about a place and

1 about an animal

HAIKU

Haiku is a traditional Japanese poem of three lines and 17 syllables. The structure has a 5/7/5 syllable count.

Line 1 = 5 syllables

Line 2 = 7 syllables

Line 3 = 5 syllables

Traditional haiku poems often were inspired by images of nature and strong emotions or expressions. Modern haiku can be about any subject.

This is an example of a modern haiku:

In the Sink

Dirty dish alone

Drowning in dark wet water

Left until morning

Write a Haiku

TANKA

A tanka poem is five lines long and contains 31 syllables. It's similar to haiku but has two additional lines. The structure of a tanka is:

Line 1 = 5 syllables

Line 2 = 7 syllables

Line 3 = 5 syllables

Line 4 = 7 syllables

Line 5 = 7 syllables

This is an example of a modern tanka:

Late Again

Alarm wakes my ears

Hearing only loud noises

Eyeballs open wide

Hand hitting the snooze silent

Brain and body back to sleep

Write a Tanka

I AM POEMS

I Am poems are often personal and give the writer a chance to write about themselves. I Am poems also may be about a real person such as Martin Luther King, Jr. or a fictional character such as Harry Potter.

FIRST STANZA:

I am (two special characteristics you have)

I wonder (something you are actually curious about)

I hear (an imaginary sound)

I see (an imaginary sight)

I want (a desire)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

SECOND STANZA:

I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)

I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)

I touch (an imaginary touch)

I worry (something that really bothers you)

I cry (something that makes you very sad)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

THIRD STANZA:

I understand (something you know is true)

I say (something you believe in)

I dream (something you actually dream about)

I try (something you really make an effort about)

I hope (something you actually hope for)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Write an I Am Poem

Diamante Poems

A Diamante poem forms a diamond shape. The beginning and ending lines are the shortest. The lines in the middle are longer.

Diamante poems are 7 lines long. They have a specific pattern using nouns, adjectives, and verbs. This is the structure:

Noun
Adjective, Adjective
Verb, Verb, Verb
Noun, Noun, Noun, Noun
Verb, Verb, Verb
Adjective, Adjective
Noun

This is an example of a Diamante poem:

Bird
Alert, Patient
Flying, Dipping, Soaring
Feathers, Beak, Eyes, Wings
Soaring, Dipping, Hunting
Quick, Precise
Hawk

Write 2 Diamante Poems

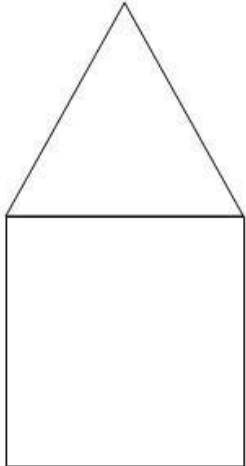
CONCRETE POEMS

Also known as shape poems, concrete poems look like what the poem is about. For example, a poem about a tree would be written so that the words make the shape of a tree.

Here are a few examples of concrete poems that were posted on the Internet:

John Hollander (b. 1929)
SWAN AND SHADOW 1969

Dusk
Above the
water hang the
 loud
 flies
Here
O so
gray
then
What A pale signal will appear
When Soon before its shadow fades
Where Here in this pool of opened eye
In us No Upon us As at the very edges
of where we take shape in the dark air
this object bares its image awakening
ripples of recognition that will
brush darkness up into light
even after this bird this hour both drift by atop the perfect sad instant now
already passing out of sight
toward yet-untroubled reflection
this image bears its object darkening
into memorial shades Scattered bits of
light No of water Or something across
water Breaking up No Being regathered
soon Yet by then a swan will have
gone Yes out of mind into what
vast
pale
hush
of a
place
past
sudden dark as
if a swan
sang



I
Am
A house
My heart filled
With happy things
With warmth and love
Whenever you're near
I find myself cozy here
In this place you found
Inside my heart today
A house I'll forever be
If you're here with me

Write a Concrete Poem

LIMERICKS

Limericks are poems with 5 lines. They have a specific rhythmic pattern and can be quite silly. Lines 1, 2 and 5 contain eight or nine syllables and the last words rhyme. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other and have five or six syllables for each line.

The structure of a limerick might look like this:

Line 1 = 8 or 9 syllables (last word rhymes with Line 2 and Line 5)

Line 2 = 8 or 9 syllables (last word rhymes with Line 1 and Line 5)

Line 3 = 5 or 6 syllables (last word rhymes with Line 4)

Line 4 = 5 or 6 syllables (last word rhymes with Line 3)

Line 5 = 8 or 9 syllables (last word rhymes with Line 1 and Line 2)

This is an example of a limerick by Edward Lear. He was famous for writing nonsensical poems and limericks.

There Was an Old Man with a Beard

**There was an old man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two owls and a hen,
Four larks and a wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard."**

Write a Limerick

FREE VERSE POEMS

Free Verse poems do not follow a specific structure or rhythmic pattern. They can be any length and about any subject. Free verse poems often contain non-rhyming lines that sound similar to modern forms of speech.

**This is an example of a free verse poem by
William Carlos Williams, 1883-1963:**

This is Just to Say

**I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox**

**and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast**

**Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold**

Write a Free Verse Poem