

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3.1

There are many ways to write a poem, and poets have to make choices about the way they want their poems to look and sound. They have to make decisions about content—the poem’s message—and form—the poem’s structure or appearance.

When considering a poem’s form, poets have to decide:

- how many stanzas, or groups of lines, the poem will have
- how many lines each stanza will have
- whether or not the poem will include a rhyme scheme

When considering a poem’s content, poets have to decide:

- what their poem will be about (the poem’s subject or content)
- what message they want to present about their subject (For example, they might want to describe their subject, or make a claim about it, or tell a story about it. The poems we are reading in this unit all tell stories about a subject.)
- what angle or perspective they want to take on their subject, or whom the poem’s narrator will be (This is often referred to as *point of view*.)

**NOTE TO STUDENT**

Did you know? Not all poems rhyme! If a poem does not rhyme or have a set pattern of beats, it is usually called a free verse poem.

