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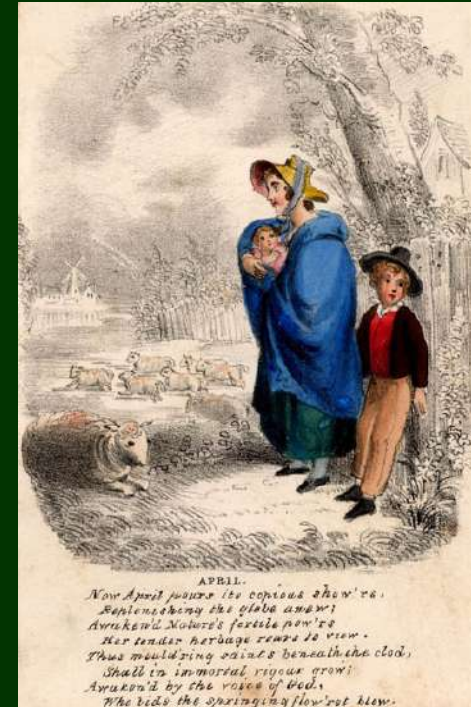
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Forms of Poetry

Every poem has a **speaker**, the voice that speaks to us. ▾

However, poems can be very different from one another, taking a variety of forms:

- Lyrics • Sonnets
- Free Verse • Catalog Poems
- Haiku • Ballads ▾



These different poetic forms give poets a variety of choices when they write.

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Forms of Poetry

Lyrics

A **lyric poem** expresses a speaker's emotions or thoughts. ▼

My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a water'd shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
Whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a halcyon sea;
My heart is gladder than all these,
Because my love is come to me.

This stanza from Christina Rossetti's "A Birthday" expresses the speaker's joy.

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Forms of Poetry

Lyrics

Lyric poems

- do not tell a story, ▼
- are often short, ▼
- and usually convey a single strong emotion.



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Forms of Poetry

Free Verse

Poetry that does not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme is called **free verse**. ▾

No labor-savings machine,
Nor discovery have I made,
Nor will I be able to leave behind me any wealthy bequest to
 found a hospital or library,
Nor reminiscence of any deed of courage for America,
Nor literary success, nor intellect, nor book for the book-shelf,
But a few carols vibrating through the air I leave . . .

“No Labor-Savings Machine” *by* Walt Whitman

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Forms of Poetry

Free Verse

Poets writing in free verse try to capture the natural rhythms of ordinary speech.



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Forms of Poetry

Haiku

A **haiku** is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables. ▼

There are five syllables each in lines 1 and 3 and seven syllables in line 2. ▼

1 2 3 4 5

Get out of my road

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
and allow me to plant these

and allow me to plant these

~~~~~  
1 2 3 4 5

Miura Chora

bamboos, Mister Toad.

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# Forms of Poetry

## Haiku

Haiku often contrast two images from nature or daily life. For example: ▼



contrasts  
with



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# Forms of Poetry

## Sonnets

A sonnet  
poetry

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,       5  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;       10  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st 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.

Sonnet 18 *by* William Shakespeare

on. ▼

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# Forms of Poetry

## Sonnets

Sonnets usually have a strong rhythmic pattern. Most sonnets also have a regular rhyme scheme. ▼

A **rhyme scheme** is a regular pattern of end rhymes.

But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest . . .

a  
b  
a  
b

What are the end rhymes in these lines from Sonnet 18? What pattern do they make? ▼

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# Forms of Poetry

## Catalog Poems

A **catalog poem** presents a list of many different images. ▼

Then hath thy orchard fruit, thy garden flowers,  
Fresh as the air, and new as are the hours.

The early cherry, with the later plum,  
Fig, grape, and quince, each in his time doth come:  
The blushing apricot, and woolly peach  
Hang on thy walls, that every child may reach.

This section of "To Penshurst," by Ben Jonson, catalogs the fruits that grow in a country house's garden. What fruits does Jonson list? ▼

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# Forms of Poetry

## Catalog Poems

A catalog of images can create depth and intensity. ▼

Consider how these different images express joy through the seasons.



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# Forms of Poetry

## Ballads

**A ballad** The ring is on my hand,  
And the wreath is on my brow;  
Satin and jewels grand  
Are all at my command,  
And I am happy now.

And my lord he loves me well;  
But, when first he breathed his vow,  
I felt my bosom swell—  
For the words rang as a knell,  
And the voice seemed his who fell  
In the battle down the dell,  
And who is happy now.

*from "Bridal Ballad" by Edgar Allan Poe*

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# Forms of Poetry

## Ballads

Ballads use

- steady rhythm, ▼
- strong rhymes, ▼
- and repetition.

"And I am happy now."



"And who is happy now."

dove

[End of Section]

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# Forms of Poetry

## Quick Check

This poetry gets bored of being  
alone,  
it wants to go outdoors to chew on  
the winds,  
to fill its commas with the keels of  
rowboats . . .

*from "Living Poetry" by Hugo Margenat*

What form of poetry does this passage contain? How do you know?

**Answer**

[End of Section]

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# Imagery

Imagery is one of a poet's most powerful tools. ▾

An **image** is a word or phrase that appeals to one or more of our five senses:

sight



smell



touch



taste



hearing



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# Imagery

Sometimes an image helps us imagine that we

- hear a sound, ▾
- smell an odor, ▾
- feel a texture, ▾
- or even taste something.



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# Imagery

Poets may use **sensory details**, elements that help you imagine how something looks, sounds, smells, feels, or tastes. ▾

What sensory details does the following excerpt contain?

Out on the land White Moon shines.  
Shines and glimmers against gnarled shadows,  
All silver to slow twisted shadows  
Falling across the long road that runs from the house.

*from "Baby Face" by Carl Sandburg*

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# Imagery

## Quick Check

And in the hush of waters was the sound  
Of pebbles rolling round,  
For ever rolling with a hollow sound.  
And bubbling sea-weeds as the waters go  
Swish to and fro  
Their long, cold tentacles of slimy grey.

*from "The Shell" by James Stephens*

Which images  
appeal to the  
sense of hearing?

Answer

Which images  
appeal to the  
sense of touch?

Answer

[End of Section]

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# Figures of Speech

Poets can play with words by using **figurative language**—expressions that put aside literal meanings in favor of imaginative connections. ▾

A figure of speech is based on a comparison that is not literally true. For example: ▾



We know that time can't *really* fly!

This figure of speech creatively expresses the idea that time passed quickly.

The time flew

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# Figures of Speech

## Similes: X Is Like Y

In a **simile**, two unlike things are compared using a word such as *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*. ▾

The dew on the leaves glistened like diamonds. ▾

Using the word *like*, *dew* is compared to *diamonds*.



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# Figures of Speech

## Metaphors: X Is Y

A **metaphor** is a comparison of two unlike things in which one thing is said to *be* another. ▾

Metaphors do not contain a word such as *like* or *as*.



As the flood waters rose, the river became a monster consuming everything in its sight.

Of course, the river didn't really become a monster, but the metaphor creates a clear picture of the river's power.

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# Figures of Speech

## Metaphors: X Is Y

A **direct metaphor** directly compares two things by using a verb such as *is*. ▾

This computer is a dinosaur. ▾

The computer isn't *really* a dinosaur, but it is old and out of date like one.



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# Figures of Speech

## Metaphors: X Is Y

An **implied metaphor** implies or suggests a comparison between two things, rather than stating the comparison directly. ▼



Gabi stared at me with venomous eyes and hissed out her reply.

Gabi is being compared to a snake, as these words imply.

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# Figures of Speech

## Personification

In **personification**, a type of metaphor, human qualities are given to something that is not human, such as an object, an animal, or even an idea. ▾

Spring caresses the earth with her warm, delicate hands.



Given human hands and the ability to caress, the season of spring is personified.

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# Figures of Speech

## Quick Check

My mother has the prettiest tricks  
Of words and words and words.  
Her talk comes out as smooth and sleek  
As breasts of singing birds.

*from "Songs for My Mother"*

by Anna Hempstead Branch

Identify the figure of speech in this excerpt. What kind is it?

Answer

What meaning is expressed by this figure of speech?

Answer

[End of Section]

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

In poetry, words communicate more than just their meanings. ▼

They are full of beats and sounds that can create musical sensations and emotional effects. ▼



To achieve this musical effect, poets use rhyme and rhythm.

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Rhyme

A **rhyme** is the repetition of a stressed vowel sound and any sounds that follow it in words that are close together in a poem. ▾

frog



swinging



money



singing



dog



funny



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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Rhyme

Listen to the following excerpt from the poem "Black Sheep" by Richard Burton. Then, identify the rhymes.



And haply a bell with a luring call  
Summoned their feet to tread           
Midst the cruel rocks, where the deep pitfall  
And the lurking snare are spread.

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Rhyme Scheme

Rhymes that occur at the ends of lines are called **end rhymes.** ▾



Golden pulse grew on the shore,  
Ferns along the hill,         
And the red cliff roses bore  
      Bees to drink their fill . . .

*from "Golden Purse" by John Myers O'Hara*

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Rhyme Scheme

A **rhyme scheme** is a regular pattern of end rhymes. ▾

Apple-green west and an orange bar,  
And the crystal eye of a lone, one star . . .  
And, "Child, take the shears and cut what you will,  
Frost to-night—so clear and dead-still."

a  
a  
b  
b

*from "Frost To-Night" by Edith M. Thomas*

You can use letters to name this rhyme scheme as ***aabb***.

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Internal Rhyme

Not all rhymes come at the ends of lines.

**Internal rhymes** occur when at least one of the rhymed words falls within a line. ▾

The Sun came up upon the left,  
Out of the sea came he!  
And he shone bright, and on the right  
Went down into the sea.

*from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge*



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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Approximate Rhymes

**Approximate rhymes** repeat some sounds but are not exact echoes. ▾



scanning



landing

Approximate rhymes are also called *half rhymes*, *near rhymes*, or *slant rhymes*. ▾

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Quick Check

Take this kiss upon the brow!  
And, in parting from you now,  
Thus much let me avow—  
You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream;  
Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day,  
In a vision, or in none,  
Is it therefore the less *gone*?  
*All* that we see or seem  
Is but a dream within a dream.

*from "A Dream Within a Dream" by Edgar Allan Poe*

Identify the end rhymes in this excerpt. Which is an approximate rhyme?

Answer

Identify the internal rhymes in this excerpt, including approximate rhymes.

Answer

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Rhythm

**Rhythm** is a musical quality based on repetition. ▾

When you talk about the beat you hear when you read a poem, you are describing its rhythm.



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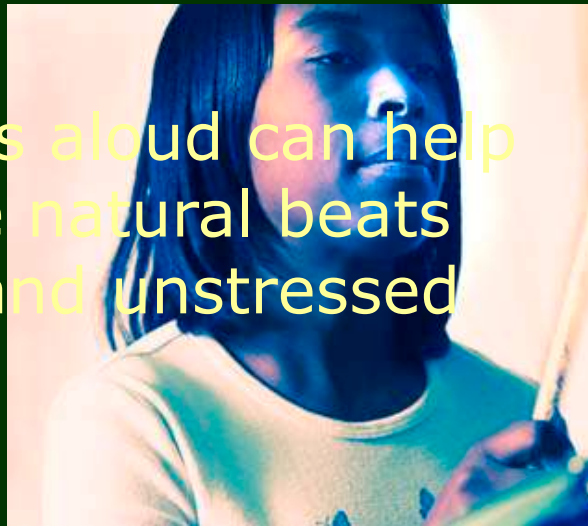
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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Meter

One common form of rhythm is **meter**, a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in the lines of a poem. ▾

Saying words aloud can help you hear the natural beats of stressed and unstressed syllables.



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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Meter

In poetry, a **foot** usually consists of one stressed syllable and one or more unstressed syllables. ▾

An **iamb** is a foot made of one unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. ▾

u / u / u / u /  
**His hair is crisp, and black, and long,**

*from "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

A line consisting of five iambs is written in **iambic pentameter**. Sonnets often are written using this rhythmic pattern.

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm


## Meter

You'll also find these common feet in poems: ▾

A **trochee** has a stressed syllable followed by an unstressed syllable.

  
**Week in, week out,** from morn till night,  
*from "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

An **anapest** has two unstressed syllables, then a stressed syllable. ▾

  
When the night is beginning to lower,  
*from "The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Meter

A **dactyl** has one stressed syllable, then two unstressed syllables.

/     u     u     /     u     u

### **Singing in Paradise!**

from "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A **spondee** is two stressed syllables.

/                    /

### **Thanks, Thanks** to thee, my worthy friend,

from "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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# The Sounds of Poetry: Rhyme and Rhythm

## Quick Check

Our little house upon the hill  
In summer time strange voices fill;  
With ceaseless rustle of the leaves,  
And birds that twitter in the eaves,  
And all the vines entangled so  
The village lights no longer show.

*from "Our Little House" by Thomas Walsh*

Which syllables are stressed in the first two lines?

Answer

Scan the rest of the excerpt. What is the dominate type of foot?

Answer

[End of Section]

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# Sound Devices

Poets also create sound effects by listening to the sounds the words make when they're said aloud. ▾

salsa

boogie

dance



waltz

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# Sound Devices

## Onomatopoeia

Using words that sound like what they mean is **onomatopoeia**.▼

For example, *achoo* echoes a sneeze and *gurgle* echoes the sound of running water.

*Achoo!*



gurgle  
gurgle  
gurgle



Onomatopoeic words can echo a natural or a mechanical sound.

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# Sound Devices

## Onomatopoeia

Listen to the following excerpt. Where do you hear onomatopoeia?

I am a copper wire slung in the air,  
Slim against the sun I make not even a clear line of  
shadow.



Night and day I keep singing—humming and  
thrumming:

It is love and war and money; it is the fighting and the  
tears, the work and want . . .

*from "Under a Telephone Pole" by Carl Sandburg*

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# Sound Devices

## Alliteration

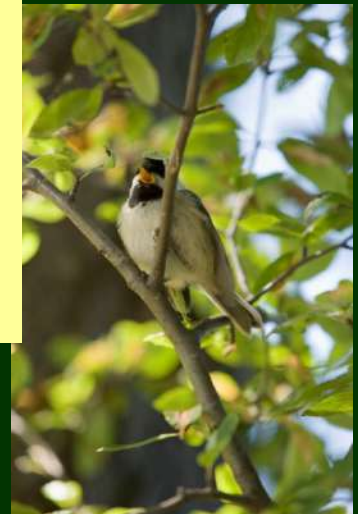
Repeating the same consonant sound in several words is **alliteration**. ▾

Listen to the alliteration in the following excerpt.



A bird **s**ang **s**weet and **s**trong  
In the **t**op of the **h**ighest **t**ree.  
**H**e **s**aid, "I pour out my **h**earth in **s**ong  
For the **s**ummer that **s**oon shall be."

*from "Spring Song" by George William Curtis*



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# Sound Devices

## Assonance

The repetition of vowel sounds in several words is **assonance**. ▾

Listen to the assonance in the following excerpt.



The baby **moon**, a can**oe**, a silver pap**oo**se can**oe**,  
**sails** and **sails** in the Indian west.

A **ring** of **silver** foxes, a **mist** of **silver** foxes,  
**sit** and **sit** around the **Indian moon**.

*from "Early Moon" by Carl Sandburg*



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# Sound Devices

## Quick Check

Hear the sledges with the bells—  
Silver bells!

What a world of merriment their  
melody foretells!

How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
In the icy air of night!

While the stars that oversprinkle  
All the heavens, seem to twinkle  
With a crystalline delight . . .

*from "The Bells" by Edgar Allan Poe*

Find examples of  
onomatopoeia.

**Answer**

Find examples of  
alliteration.

**Answer**

Find an example of  
assonance.

**Answer**

[End of Section]

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# Analyze Poetry

## Your Turn

Read these poems. Then, complete the activities.

**1.** How would you describe the form of each?

### Dust of Snow

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree  
  
Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.  
  
—Robert Frost

### Lost

Desolate and lone  
All night long on the lake  
Where fog trails and mist creeps,  
The whistle of a boat  
Calls and cries unendingly,  
Like some lost child  
In tears and trouble  
Hunting the harbor's breast  
And the harbor's eyes.  
  
—Carl Sandburg

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# Analyzing Poetry

## Your Turn

2. Name one image in each poem. Identify the sensory details that create each image.

### Dust of Snow

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree  
Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.  
—Robert Frost

### Lost

Desolate and lone  
All night long on the lake  
Where fog trails and mist creeps,  
The whistle of a boat  
Calls and cries unendingly,  
Like some lost child  
In tears and trouble  
Hunting the harbor's breast  
And the harbor's eyes.  
—Carl Sandburg

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# Analyzing Poetry

## Your Turn

3. Which poem makes greater use of figurative language? How does this poem use metaphor, simile, and/or personification?

### Dust of Snow

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree  
Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.  
—Robert Frost

### Lost

Desolate and lone  
All night long on the lake  
Where fog trails and mist creeps,  
The whistle of a boat  
Calls and cries unendingly,  
Like some lost child  
In tears and trouble  
Hunting the harbor's breast  
And the harbor's eyes.  
—Carl Sandburg

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**The End**

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