



let's give poetry a go!

Our activity pack to bring
out anyone's inner poet

OOMP!

A full life for life

Welcome

Hello! Welcome to let's give poetry a go!

Poetry has been around for thousands of years and in many forms. This activity pack will look at some of the most popular forms, what makes them unique and how to have a go at writing your own together.

Writing a poem is about observing the world around and within you. A poem can be about anything - from love to loss, family and friends, special moments in life or even about the cup of tea you drink every morning!

Writing poetry can seem daunting, especially if you feel that you aren't naturally creative or bursting with poetic ideas. With the right inspiration and approach, you can write a poem that you can be proud of and share it with others.



What's in this pack:

- **The Shakespearean Sonnet**
- **Japanese Haiku**
- **Acrostic Poetry**

The Shakespearean Sonnet

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 ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st.
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Did you know:

This is the most popular of all Shakespeare's 154 Sonnets. Published in 1609, like many sonnets of the era, the poem takes the form of a direct address to an unnamed subject. The key device in the poem is metaphor, which Shakespeare references directly in the opening line. Little is known about the composition of Shakespeare's sonnets and how much of the material in them is autobiographical.



The Shakespearean Sonnet

Three simple steps needed to write your Sonnet. **Don't worry, we'll guide you through this over the next few pages...**

1

Think of an idea for your sonnet

It is important that your Sonnet follows one simple idea. It could be a feeling - for example, love or fear. It could be about a thought you have had or about a person. It could focus on a favourite subject - for example, sport, music, movies or nature.

2

Your sonnet must rhyme

Your Sonnet must have three sections which include four lines and one section with two lines.

A set of four lines is called a **quatrain**.

The first quatrain will rhyme like this: **ABAB**. For example - rain, space, pain and trace.

In the second quatrain you will use different words and it will rhyme like this: **CDCD**. For example - run, sky, sun and fly.

In the third quatrain you will use different words again and it will rhyme like this: **EFEF**. For example - boy, man, joy and van.

The final two lines are called a **couplet**.

The rhyme pattern for that is **GG**. The couplet should rhyme, **but not** be associated with the rhyming words you have used so far! An example of this could be owl and fowl.

3

Your sonnet must have a metrical pattern

The Sonnet should be written in **iambic pentameter**.

Shakespeare uses iambic pentameter because it closely resembles the rhythm of everyday speech and he wants to imitate everyday speech in his plays.

The next pages go into more detail about each of these steps!

The Idea Generator

The very first thing you must do before you try to write your Sonnet is find an idea worth writing about. Use the area below to generate your own ideas. We have given some suggestions to help you!

My Ideas:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

How about...

- Your favourite animal or pet
- A message to a loved one
- A time that someone surprised you
- A funny story
- The most romantic thing that anyone's ever done for you
- Your favourite time of year
- A memorable dream
- What scares you
- A play on words
- A childhood memory
- Your favourite hobby or task
- Your favourite colour
- A time that seemed too good to be true
- Your favourite time of year
- A random thought

Remember:

The more original your initial idea is, the easier the Sonnet will be to write!

The Shakespearean Sonnet

It's a rhythm!

A Shakespearean Sonnet follows a single idea. This idea develops and follows a journey which then leads to a conclusion. This all follows a very specific rhyming pattern.

The sonnet structure consists of four parts which always make up fourteen lines. The first three of the four sonnet parts have the same rhyming pattern, whilst the fourth and last part has a different rhyming pattern:

- The first quatrain has four lines that end with alternate rhyming words, in this pattern: **ABAB**
- The second quatrain has the same rhyme scheme but with different rhyming words so it follows this pattern: **CD CD**
- The third quatrain also has the same rhyme scheme, but again with different rhyming words: **EFEF**
- The final two lines is a rhyming couplet: **GG**

Every Shakespearean Sonnet follows this pattern and rhyming structure.

Shakespeare's Sonnet Rhyme Scheme

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun; **A**
Coral is far more red than her lips' red; **B**
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun; **A**
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head. **B**

I have seen roses damask'd; **C**
But no such roses see I in her cheeks; **D**
And in some perfumes is there more delight; **C**
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks. **D**

I love to hear her speak, yet well I know **E**
That music hath a far more pleasing sound; **F**
I grant I never saw a goddess go; **E**
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground **F**

And yet, by heav'n, I think my love as rare **G**
As any she belied with false compare. **G**

The Shakespearean Sonnet

Understanding Iambic Pentameter

da DUM	da DUM	da DUM	da DUM	da DUM
1	2	3	4	5

Two syllables together is known as a foot. Pentameter means five, so every line of your sonnet must have five feet. Shakespeare uses iambic pentameter, not only in the sonnets, but also throughout his plays. So in a line of poetry, the words **"the cow"** would be considered one foot. This is because when you say the words, **the** is unstressed and **cow** is stressed, it can be represented as **da DUM**. An unstressed/stressed foot is known as an iamb. That's where the term **iambic** comes from!

if YOU	would PUT	the KEY	inSIDE	the LOCK
da DUM	da DUM	da DUM	da DUM	da DUM

So if we look at Sonnet 18 again, you will now be able to see the Iambic Pentameter within the quatrains:

First quatrain

*/Shall I /compare /thee to /a Sum/mer's day?/ **A**
/Thou art/more love/ly and/ more temp/erate:/ **B**
/Rough winds/ do shake/ the dar/ling buds /of May,/ **A**
/And Sum/mer's lease/ hath all/ too short/ a date:/ **B***

Second quatrain

*/Sometime/ too hot/ the eye/ of heav/en shines,/ **C**
/And oft'/ is his/ gold comp/lexion/ dimm'd;/ **D**
/And eve/ry fair /from fair /sometime /declines,/ **C**
/By chance /or nat/ure's chang/ing course/ untrimm'd:/ **D***

Third quatrain

*/But thy/ etern/al Sum/mer shall/ not fade/ **E**
/Nor lose/ possess/ion of/ that fair/ thou owest;/ **F**
/Nor shall /Death brag/ thou wand/rest in/ his shade,/ **E**
/When in /etern/al lines/ to time/ thou grow'st:/ **F***

Couplet

*/So long/ as men/ can breathe,/ or eyes/ can see,/ **G**
/So long/ lives this,/ and this /gives life/ to thee./ **G***

Create your Sonnet

Title: _____

Author: _____

Quatrain 1

A / / / / /
B / / / / /
A / / / / /
B / / / / /

Quatrain 2

C / / / / /
D / / / / /
C / / / / /
D / / / / /

Quatrain 3

E / / / / /
F / / / / /
E / / / / /
F / / / / /

Couplet

G / / / / /
G / / / / /

Words that rhyme:

Remember...

da DUM

/ - This symbol highlights the iamb.

Each line should have five feet made up of two syllables!

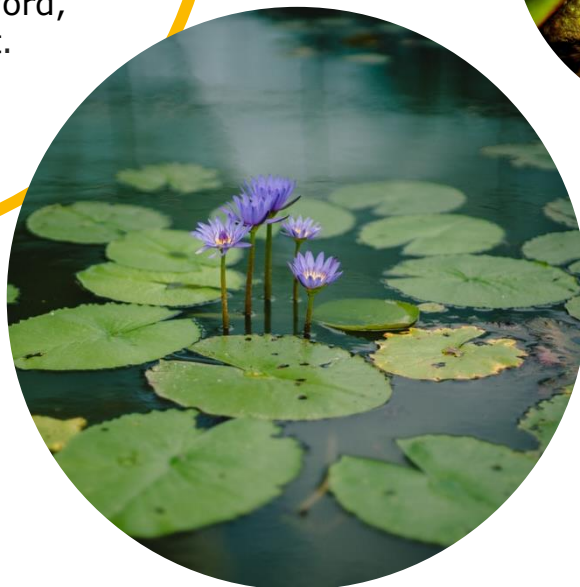
The Japanese Haiku

The Old Pond by Matsuo Bashō

An old silent pond
A frog jumps into the pond—
Splash! Silence again.

Did you know...

Haikus are known for their ability to paint a vivid picture in just a few words. Their minimal nature force writers to bare down to only the essentials. Making each word, or even syllable, count.



The Japanese Haiku

Three simple steps needed to write your Haiku. **Don't worry, we'll guide you through this over the next few pages...**

1

Begin by reading examples of Haiku

A haiku is a beautiful form of poetry, so take time to appreciate it before you begin writing it!

2

It's all about the subject you are talking about...

It's important to create a list of the possible subjects that you might want to write about. Consider the things that inspire you, for example - nature, animals, seasons, the weather or food & drink. After you choose your subject, follow the simple steps below:

- Look at some pictures of your desired subject and admire it. Some of the greatest inspiration comes from simply admiring something.
- Make a list of words that relate to the subject you have chosen and be as descriptive as possible. Look at the details, colours and the way your subject interacts with the world around it. The smallest details can make a great haiku. Don't forget to take note of your feelings and emotions too!
- The last line in a haiku usually makes an observation about your subject. Some poets have fun and add a surprise here.

3

Follow the pattern of traditional Haiku

The structure of a traditional haiku is always the same:

- There are only three lines, totalling 17 syllables.
- The 1st line is 5 syllables.
- The 2nd line is 7 syllables.
- The 3rd line is 5 syllables.

Note: It's up to you if you use punctuation, capitalisation or even follow the rules in structuring sentences. A haiku does not have to rhyme and can include the repetition of words or sounds.

The Japanese Haiku

An Array of Haikus to Inspire

The collection of Haikus below are all written by Richard Wright. Richard Wright was an American author of novels, short stories, poems, and non-fiction.

*A spring sky so clear
That you feel you are seeing
Into tomorrow.*

*A soft wind at dawn
Lifts one dry leaf and lays it
Upon another.*

*Keep straight down this block,
Then turn right where you will find
A peach tree blooming.*

*The sport stadium:
Every seat is taken
By whirling snowflakes.*

*From this skyscraper,
All the bustling streets converge
Towards the spring sea*

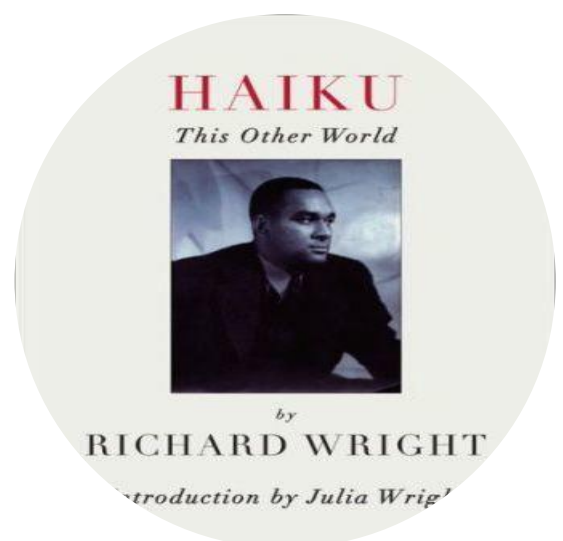
*Burning out its time,
And timing its own burning,
One lonely candle.*

*My cigarette glows
Without my lips touching it, —
A steady spring breeze.*

*Like a spreading fire,
Blossoms leap from tree to tree
In a blazing spring.*

*They smelt like roses;
But when I put on the light,
They were violets.*

*First autumn morning:
The mirror I stare into
Shows my father's face*



The Japanese Haiku

The Structure of a Haiku

Haiku is made of short, unrhymed lines that evoke natural imagery. When translated into English, the common structure that most Haiku poems follow is the **5-7-5 structure**.

The entire poem consists of just three lines, with **17 syllables** in total.

- The first line is **5 syllables**
- The second line is **7 syllables**
- The third line is **5 syllables**

The Haiku below highlights the **5-7-5 structure**:

Ocean Voyage

An ocean voyage. **5**
As waves break over the bow, **7**
the sea welcomes me. **5**



Create your Haiku

Title: _____

Author: _____

5 Syllables

7 Syllables

5 Syllables

Remember...

Ensure that you focus on a single subject in your Haiku.

Did you know...

Haiku remains Japan's most popular poetic form.

Acrostic Poetry

An Acrostic by Edgar Allan Poe

Elizabeth it is in vain you say
Love not" — thou sayest it in so sweet a way:
In vain those words from thee or L.E.L.
Zantippe's talents had enforced so well:
Ah! if that language from thy heart arise,
Breath it less gently forth — and veil thine eyes.
Endymion, recollect, when Luna tried
To cure his love — was cured of all beside —
His follie — pride — and passion — for he died.

Did you know...

Acrostics are common in medieval literature, where they usually serve to highlight the name of the poet or his patron, or to make a prayer to a saint.



Acrostic Poetry

Four simple steps needed to write your Acrostic poem.
Don't worry, we'll guide you through this over the next few pages...

1 Begin by understanding how Acrostics work

In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line spells a word. The word is the subject of the poem. On the next page, Acrostic poetry is explored in more detail with further examples of the poetic form.

2 What do you want to write about? Come up with some ideas

Choose a subject that you have a lot to say about. It might be helpful to keep an ongoing notebook, making lists of observations about the subject you want to write about. For example - what inspires you, your favourite things in life and what you observe on a daily basis. You could even write about yourself!

3 Get it down on paper and build it's structure

Once you have your subject follow the steps below to bring your Acrostic poem to life!

- Write your subject word(s) down on paper vertically
- Fill in the lines of your poetry
- Focus on sensory imagery
- Try using similes and metaphors

4 Revise your poem

Just because you finished filling out the lines of your acrostic poem doesn't mean you're done yet! Once you've finished your first draft, read it back to yourself and think about how you can make it even better...

Acrostic Poetry

Understanding this poetic form

This type of poetry spells out a name, word, phrase or message with the first letter of each line of the poem. It can rhyme or not, and typically when you put the letters together, the word spelt out lays down the theme of the poem.

Here are some examples below:

ICE CREAM

Incredibly sweet
Creamy dessert treat
Extrremely cold

Cakes are good too, but ice cream is better
Rarely disliked
Excellence is just like ice cream
All your favourite toppings
My favourite treat

MARION

Magnificent, a creature of wonder
Alluring, so attractive
Reliable, a buddy you can count on
Interesting, truly fascinating
Obliging, willing to accommodate
Nice, a sweet soul

Remember...

You can also use multiple words for your subject if you'd like. This is an easy way to add length.

SPRING

Sunny days
Plants awakening
Raindrops on the roof
Interesting clouds
New flowers
Grey skies

Top Tip

The word you choose will determine the length of your Acrostic.

Choose a word that corresponds with the length you want to write. If the word you want to write is too long or too short, check a thesaurus for alternatives.

For example, instead of love, you may want to use adoration or devotion.

Acrostic Poetry

Getting it down on paper

➤ Write it Vertically

Each line of your poem needs to begin with a letter from your subject word, therefore it is important when starting to write your poem that you write the word vertically. This will help to visualise your poem and anticipate how your lines are going to come together.

➤ Begin filling it in

Begin to fill in the lines of your poem. It is important to remember that you don't have to start with the first line. Look at all the letters you have to work with - there may be a more interesting place for you to start and if so begin there!

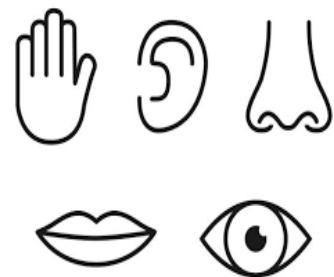
➤ Focus on sensory imagery

Why not try focusing on sensory imagery? Sensory imagery is language that draws on the five senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. Your reader will be able to understand abstract concepts like "love" or "hope" better if they can imagine specific details through their bodies. For example, instead of saying you love your mother, you can say you love the way her perfume smells like fresh summer flowers.

➤ Use similes and metaphors

A simile is a comparison that uses the words "like" or "as." For example, "as red as new lip stick". A metaphor makes a comparison, too, but instead of saying that one thing is "like" another, it goes a step further and says that the two things being compared are the same thing, for example "love is a battlefield".

T	_____
R	_____
U	_____
E	_____
L	_____
O	_____
V	_____
E	_____



My Acrostic Poem



Title: _____

Author: _____

Write the letters for your acrostic poem in the boxes on the left. Use the right hand side to write your word, phrase, or line that starts with the letter.

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○

○
