The mystery of Poetry



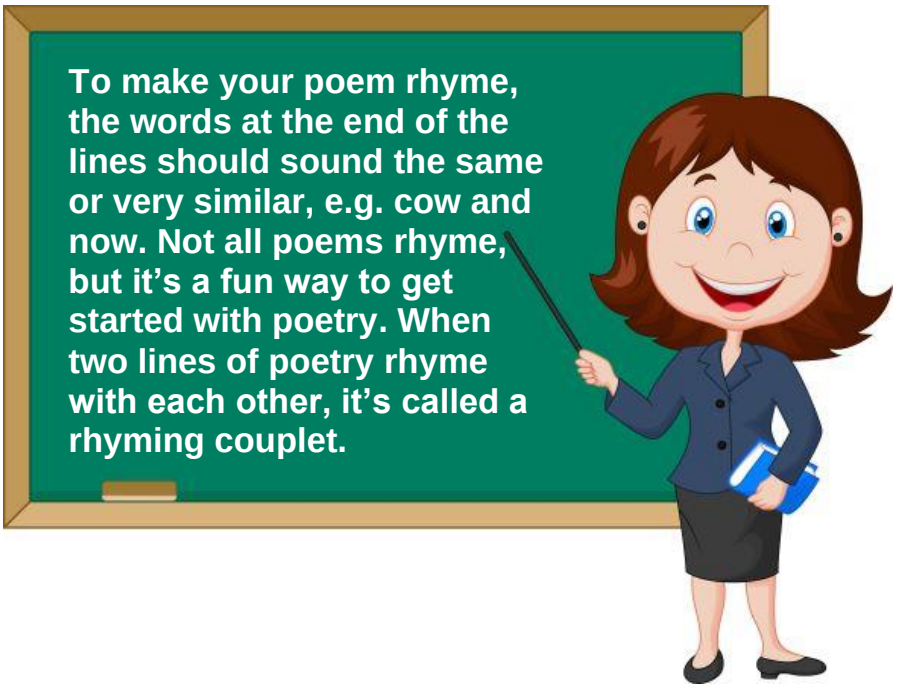
As you have seen in the video, there are different types of poetry. For example, in the **acrostic poem**, the first letter of each line spells out the poem's topic.

There are other types of poetry.

- **Narrative poems**: tell a story
- **Shape poems**: the words are arranged to look like the thing you're writing about. For example, if you write about a snake, the form of your poem will represent a snake. You write inside the form.
- **Nonsense poems**: everything is funny and nothing makes sense. For example: *On the Ning Nang Nong* was a nonsense poem which is now a song. Find it on Google search.

Now, let's see some techniques.

1. **Rhyme**



- Here is an example:

Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are.

2. **Repetition**: used to emphasize an idea. You can repeat the same word, phrase or even line. This also helps to give your poem rhythm.

Tell me, I'm…
Tell me, I'm …
Tell me, I'm ...

3. **Alliteration**: using lots of words that start with the same letter or sound. It sounds good when you read it out and it gives your poem rhythm.

Sheep should shower in a shed.

Again, there are more, but let's start with these techniques. Let's keep the rest for next year.

Are there any tips for rhyming?

Yes, there are. Read the table below.

Remember the poem on a cat in the video?

1. Think about how many words you can think up with an -at ending to rhyme with cat. Write them down on a piece of paper.

Examples: fat, hat, rat, sat, mat.

2. Can you write four short lines using words that rhyme with cat? Remember: if each line has a similar amount of syllables, it sounds and reads better. Watch that part again on the video at 2:56 min. Clap in your hands to help you count the syllables.

3. Try rhyming some other simple words, such as **frog**, **pet**, **snow** or **bear**.

4. As you have learned in the video, you can rhyme every two lines or rhyme lines 1 and 2, then 3 and 4.

Practicing and planning

If you practice a sport such as soccer, hockey, baseball, etc., practice is the key to improving. The same is true for poetry. Let's get started.

1. **How many rhymes can you find?**

You will play this game against your parent(s). On a piece of paper, list as many rhymes as you can using the words below. You may use a timer to fix a time limit.

- ball blue dog meet fox



2. **Pass the poem sheet.**

- Write down a short line.
- Pass it to your parent(s) and ask him/her to write the second line.
- Write the third line, then ask your parent(s) to write the last one.

Read aloud the poem. Does it rhyme? Does it make sense?

3. **Shape poem**

- Draw a shape (favourite animal, toy, etc.).
- Write a poem about it inside the shape.

4. **Acrostic poem**

- Write an acrostic poem about this word: **sport.**
- It doesn't have to rhyme.
- Before starting, find all the things you think about this word.

Now, let's talk about **emotions.**





Wait! It's more interesting than you think! Be patient!

Prewriting

Before you even think about your topic, go to a place you like.

For examples:

- At the park;
- In nature;
- On a bench in the city;
- Somewhere in your backyard;
- Other place.

Get installed comfortably. You will use four of your five senses in order to complete this exercise.
Have a pen and a notebook to write down your impressions.



Vision: Examine everything around you. Are there people around? Children playing? Squirrels climbing trees? Cars passing by?

Hearing: Now close your eyes and listen. Pay close attention to any noise.

Smell: Close your eyes again and smell. Do you smell cut grass? Flowers? River? Fish? Gas pollution?

Touch: Touch things around you. What do you feel? Grass, sand, wood, rock?

- Are you more inspired after this exercise?
- Do you think this exercise might help you write your poem?

Have you done enough exercises now? Ready for the next step?



Writing

- Before going further, see the table below to find elements found in different poems.

Intention	Characteristics	Text structure
The author's intentions are: - to please, to entertain, to touch (emotions) and to play with words.	- express emotions, sensations or ideas; - rythm; Can include: - literary elements: repetition, alliteration - figurative language	- Title - Number of lines and stanzas (paragraph) - Number of syllables - Rhyming (or not) - Repeated structure.

Glossary (for grade 4): **stanzas** (paragraphs), **verse** (line) **literary elements** (sounds)

You are now ready to write your draft using the tips you have learned.

Revising

Have you checked your poem's content?



Publishing

- Write your final draft, then draw a character or scene from your poem.

Good work my little friend
You just reached the end!