

## Poetry Types in One Collection

### Poems that Use Metaphors

#### 1) The Ezra Pound Couplet

Two lines long. Each line is a metaphor for the other. Typically, there are two or three elements in each line.

Example: People filing onto a plane

Peas rolling down a knife into a giant's mouth

The people are the peas, the filing into the plane is the rolling down the knife, and the plane itself is the giant.

Good Ezra Pound Couplets utilize metaphors that are very different from each other. Too much similarity creates a poor poem.

Example: Children playing in a sandbox

Adults playing on the beach

#### 2) The Metaphor Poem

In this poem, many different forms could be used, such as quatrains or free verse, but the essence of the poem is that the first line provides a metaphor. Take an abstract concept and compare it to a concrete object. Each line that follows describes the concrete object.

Example:

Love is a battlefield – each line that follows this line will describe a battlefield. Because of the metaphor already established, each of these lines automatically also describes love. We'll create this poem, based on the song by Pat Benetar, in class now.

#### 3) Riddle Poetry

Utilizes the invisible or unknown concrete object. Similar to the above example but without stating that it is love that is being talked about.

**Dylan Thomas portraits** – this is a three line poem that asks a question which is answered by 4-6 word pairs ending in “ing”. Here is an example:

Have you ever seen the rain?

Life-giving, ground-soaking

Mud-making, tires-spinning

**Haiku** – Japanese three line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern. In other words the first line has five syllables, the second 7, the third five again. They are often about nature

Example:        Birds flying up high  
                     Hunter’s bullets whizzing by  
                     No duck soup today

**Tanka** – same as above but with a 5-7-5-7-7 pattern.

**Sound** – using only sounds to depict an idea or concept. Very weird style but some poets use it.

**Optical** – creating images with the words you use. For example, you might write about an apple and the words form the shape of an apple.

**Experimental** – any form can be used but the idea here is to experiment with how the words are shaped and formed. For example, the word “big” might be written out larger than the other words.

**Story poems.** Think of poets like Dr. Seus who helped make the story poem famous. Usually these should have a distinct rhyme and rhythm to them and actually tell a story. Use at least four quatrains stringed together with a specific rhyme pattern.

**Tribute Poetry** – 16 lines long. Pick four of your favourite music groups. The sixteen lines are divided into four quatrains. In each quatrain, you pick one line from each of the four groups/artists. Do this for each quatrain.

### **Bio Poem**

(Line 1) First name

(Line 2) Three or four adjectives that describe the person

(Line 3) Important relationship (daughter of . . . ,mother of . . . , etc)

(Line 4) Two or three things, people, or ideas that the person loved

(Line 5) Three feelings the person experienced

(Line 6) Three fears the person experienced

(Line 7) Accomplishments (who composed . . . , who discovered ..., etc.)

(Line 8) Two or three things the person wanted to see happen or wanted to experience

(Line 9) His or her residence

(Line 10) Last name

**Imitation Poetry** – copy the form of the poem, but include your own ideas. Two examples of how to do this are below.

## Miss Rosie

Lucille Clinton

when I watch you

wrapped up like garbage  
sitting, surrounded by the smell  
of too old potato peels

or when I watch you

in your old man's shoes  
with your little toe cut out  
sitting, waiting for your mind  
like next week's grocery

I say when I watch you

you wet brown bag of a woman  
who used to be the best looking gal in Georgia

I stand up

through your destruction

I stand up

In this poem, you keep all the lines on the margin and add in your own lines that are indented. It is about any person you are watching.

## Expectation

Mike Neufeld

I expected to win  
what I received was crushing defeat  
I hoped for overtime  
what I attained was no last chance  
I longed for glory  
what I ended up with was agony  
And so I felt alone.

I expected \_\_\_\_\_  
what I received was \_\_\_\_\_  
I hoped for \_\_\_\_\_  
what I attained was \_\_\_\_\_  
I longed for \_\_\_\_\_  
what I ended up with was \_\_\_\_\_  
And so I felt \_\_\_\_\_

You could also imitate this poem. Fill in your own words in the blanks.

**Free Verse** – this is poetry without any regular rhythm or rhyme scheme. You want to create vivid imagery and moods in this writing. Length is up to you but is usually at least five lines long.

### **Cinquain (word).**

A five line poem which tells about one idea, small detail, or experience.  
The lines are arranged by words.

Line 1- title 1 word

Line 2- Description of the title 2 words

Line 3- Action about the title 3 words

Line 4- feeling about the title 4 words

Line 5- Synonym for the title.

### **Quatrain**

A four line poem where at least two lines rhyme. Rhyme pattern is up to you.

### **Triplet**

A light, often humorous three line poem where the last word in each line rhymes.