

# A PLETHORA OF POEMS TWO

## Limerick

A limerick is a funny little poem containing five lines. The last words of the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme with each other (A) and has eight to ten syllables. The last words of the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other (B) and have five to seven syllables.

Lines 1, 2, and 5: rhyme and have eight to ten syllables

Lines 3 and 4: rhyme and have five to seven syllables

## NOUN VERSE

A Noun Verse is a patterned poem of four lines. They should be pleasant poems that lend themselves to many different subjects.

Line 1: noun

Line 2: two adjectives that describe the noun

Line 3: two "ing" verbs

Line 4: a synonym

## Elegy

A poem that laments the death of a person, or one that is simply sad and thoughtful. It was above all the vehicle for exhortation and for reflection on a variety of themes--warfare, politics, ethics, man's life in general. Its form helped the poet to marshal his ideas into brief, striking phrases.

## SIJO

A sijo is a poem with a specific pattern of syllables. They are as follows:

Six lines  
six to eight syllables in each line  
forty-two to forty-eight syllables in all.

## Sonnet

The sonnet has its origins in the courts of Sicily, and it was further developed in the 14th century by the poet Francesco Petrarca. There are two kinds of sonnets: the Petrarchan and the Shakespearean. Both have fourteen lines. The Petrarchan sonnet has an octave of eight lines and a sestet of six. The rhyme scheme of the octave is ababcbcd, and of the sestet is cdecde. The Shakespearean sonnet has three quatrains and a final couplet, and its scheme rhyme is ababcbcddefegf.

## Ode

A lengthy lyric poem, usually serious in tone, but to celebrate or honour a subject or person. It may be public (Tennyson's Ode on the Death of Duke Wellington) or personal (Keats's Ode to a Nightingale).

## If Only Poem

An If Only poem is one that honors a very special person. It can be written about a family member, a friend, or anyone fitting the above description.

Line 1: Names a special person

Line 2: Write two descriptive words separated by "and" or "but"

Line 3: Tell what the person does and how

Line 4: Write a simile using "as"

Line 5: Write a wish

(Each line begins with a capital letter, and the last line ends with either a period or an exclamation point)

## Septet Poem

A "Septet" poem is again one about any subject with a specific syllable pattern. Here is an example:

Line 1: 3 syllables

Line 2: 5 syllables

Line 3: 7 syllables

Line 4: 9 syllables

Line 5: 7 syllables

Line 6: 5 syllables

Line 7: 3 syllables

## LANTERN

A lantern is a light and airy Japanese poem that follows a syllabic pattern as follows:

Line 1: one syllable (noun)

Line 2: two syllables (describing noun)

Line 3: three syllables (describing noun)

Line 4: four syllables (describing noun)

Line 5: one syllable (another word for the noun in line one)

## The Five W's Poem

Who? What? When? Where? Why?  
Use these questions to write a non-rhyming poem. Here's how:

Line 1: Who or what is the poem about

Line 2: What action is happening?

Line 3: When does the action take place? (a time)

Line 4: Where does the action take place? (a place)

Line 5: Why does this action happen? (a reason)