



With



Discovering Poetry

There are many types of poetry. If you are just starting to learn how to write a poem, there are a few that might come easier than others. Following are 5 types of poem that you can try for yourself, with examples to show you how they look. Once you understand each type of poetry, you can use the pages at the end of this unit to write your own.

You can read poetry in books like those written by Dr. Seuss, or in A.A. Milne's poetry collections, *When We Were Very Young* or *Now We Are Six*. Robert Louis Stevenson's collection of children's poetry, *A Child's Garden of Verses* is another good book to read. Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky both write hilarious poetry for Children. Nursery rhymes are also poetry, so even reading Mother Goose can give you ideas.

You will notice that poetry often uses what is called *figurative language*. Figurative language uses 'figures of speech' to get a point across. It can be more effective or impactful than just stating something outright.

Which of the following sentences is more interesting?

Joey fell asleep.

Joey fell into bed like an anvil, his eyes drooping closed the minute his head touched the pillow.

Figurative language makes things more interesting.

Figurative language can include metaphors, similes, and personification.

Similes compare two things that are not alike by using the words *like* or *as*. Example: *A train whistle blew, long and low, like a sad, sad song.*

Metaphors compare two opposite things without using *like* or *as*. Example: *The moon made his face into a silver mask.*

Personification is when you apply human attributes to an object that is not human. Example: *My short, round shadow bumped along after me.*

After you've learned about the 5 types of poetry included here and are ready to write some of your own, try to include figurative language in your poems.



5 Types of Poetry

Acrostic – Uses a word going vertically down the page as the first letter in each horizontal line.
For example:

*L*ittles run round my house
*O*ver and under like a mouse
*V*aliantly battling deadly foes
*E*ver erasing all my woes

Diamante –This style has seven lines arranged in a certain structure. It starts out describing one thing and ends up describing another.

Line 1: Beginning subject

Line 2: Two describing words about line 1

Line 3: Three doing words about line 1

Line 4: A short phrase about line 1, a short phrase about line 7

Line 5: Three doing words about line 7

Line 6: Two describing words about line 7

Line 7: End subject



Haiku – Haiku consists of 3 lines and 17 syllables. Lines 1 and 3 have five syllables and line 2 has seven syllables. They do not have to rhyme, but a fun challenge can be rhyming lines 1 and 3.

*The sky is so blue.
The sun is so warm up high.
I love the summer.*

Cinquain – This consists of five unrhymed lines, with each line containing a certain number of syllables, and describes a person, place, or thing

Line 1: One vague or general **one-word subject** or topic

Line 2: Two **vivid adjectives** that describe the topic

Line 3: Three interesting **-ing action verbs** that fit the topic

Line 4: Four-word phrase that **captures feeling** about the topic

Line 5: A very specific term that **explains Line 1**

*apple
red, delicious
crunching, chewing, eating
my favorite snack
apple*

Limerick – This style has 5 lines with lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyming and lines 3 and 4 rhyming. It usually starts with “There was a…” and ends with a name, place, or person. Lines 1, 2, and 5 should have 7-10 syllables and lines 3 and 4 should have 5-7 syllables. The last line should be a little farfetched.

*There was an Old Man of Nantucket
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.
His daughter, called Nan,
Ran away with a man,
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.*



My Acrostic Poem

By _____



S _____

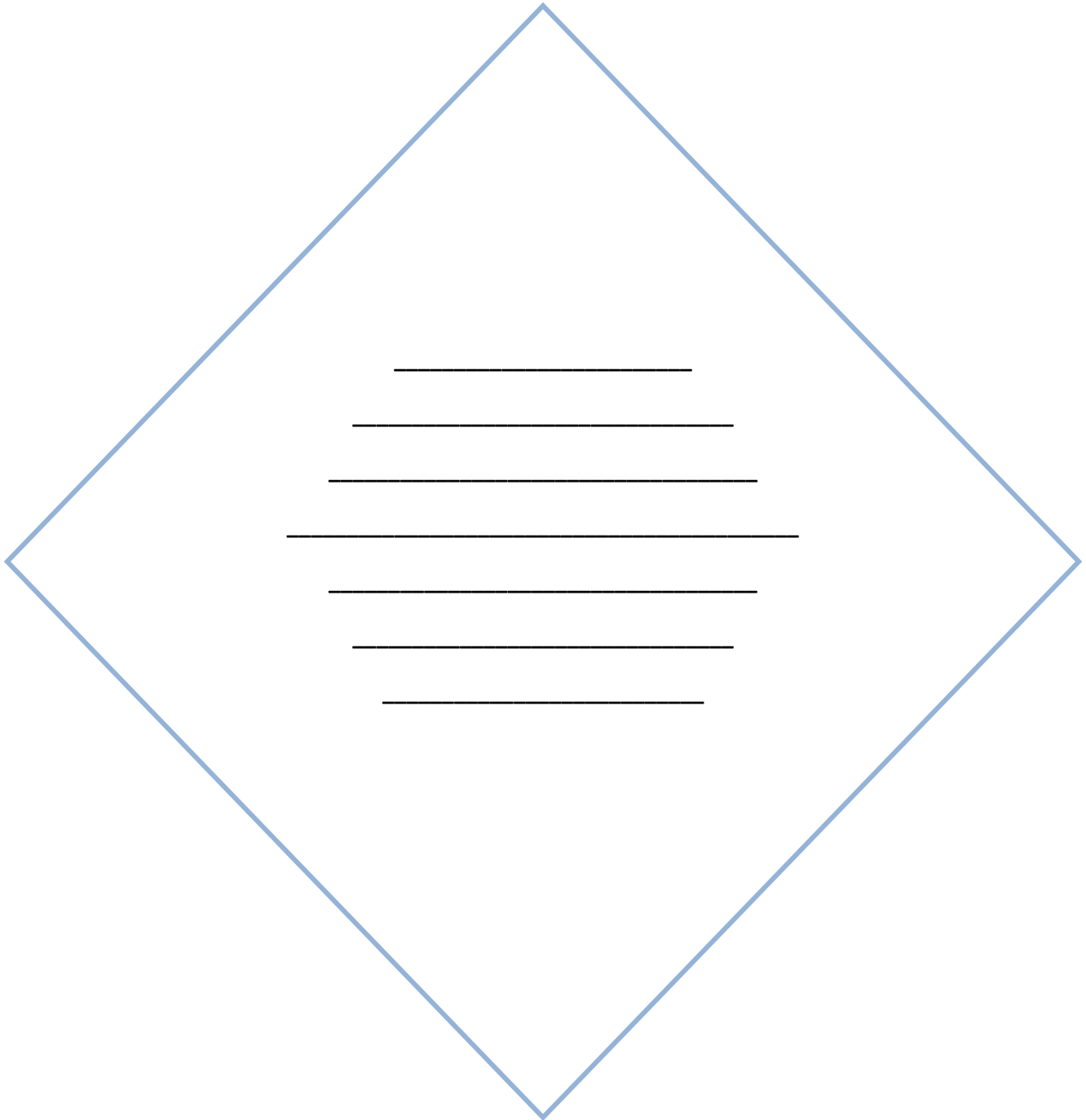
N _____

O _____

W _____

My Diamante Poem

By _____



A large blue diamond shape is centered on the page. Inside the diamond, there are seven horizontal lines of varying lengths, arranged symmetrically to form a diamond shape. The lines are intended for writing a poem in the diamante format.



My Haiku

By _____





My Cinquain

By _____



My Limerick

By _____