

# Types of Poetry

Poetry is a genre of literature that expresses ideas and emotions. There are many different types of poetry. Here are some of the most well-known.

## Haiku

Haiku is a type of poetry that originated in Japan. Haiku usually describes nature. In a haiku, there are three lines of poetry. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has five syllables.

## Cinquain

Cinquain poems have five lines. The first line has two syllables. The second line has four syllables. The third line has six syllables. The fourth line has eight syllables. The fifth line has two syllables. This type of poetry was inspired by Japanese haiku.

## Free Verse

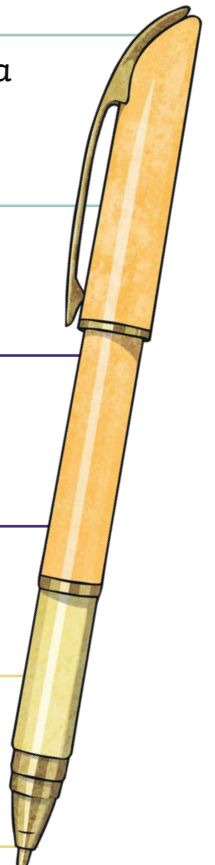
Free verse poetry is very versatile as it has no set amount of lines, syllables, nor a rhyme scheme. Free verse poetry can vary widely in length and is an excellent form of poetry for any poet!

## Sonnet

A sonnet has fourteen lines. It has a certain rhythm called iambic pentameter. There are ten syllables in each of the lines, and it has a specific rhyme scheme. Shakespeare wrote many famous sonnets.

## Epic

An epic poem is a very long poem that tells a story. Usually, the story is about amazing things characters did in the past. One epic poem, "The Odyssey," has over 12,000 lines!



## Ode

An ode is a poem honoring or celebrating someone or something. Odes were originally written in ancient Greece.

## Ballad

A ballad is a poem that tells a story. It is written in four-line stanzas. These four-line stanzas are called quatrains. They usually have the rhyming pattern of ABCB. Many times ballads are sung or accompanied by music.

## Soliloquy

A soliloquy is a type of poem in which the character is talking to oneself. This type of poetry is similar to a speech. It can have a varied rhyme scheme or no rhyming at all. Another name for soliloquy is a monologue.

# Questions

**What is a ballad?**

- a monologue
- a story
- a celebration
- a five-line poem

**Which type of poetry is Shakespeare famous for writing?**

- epic
- haiku
- sonnet
- cinquain

**Where did haiku poetry originate?**

- Japan
- Greece
- China
- France

**Which type of poetry would be best for beginning poets? Why?**

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**Which type of poetry has no limitations or specific requirements?**

- soliloquy
- epic
- free verse
- cinquain

**Which type of poetry would be best for telling a very long story? Why?**

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