



HAVE FUN WITH POETRY!

Here are some ideas to help you write your own poem!

TRY ... writing an ACROSTIC POEM

In an acrostic poem, the first letter or letters spell out a word or phrase about the topic. The topic word is written vertically and the rest of the words are written horizontally.

First write the letters of the name of something you like down the page, like this:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| S | C |
| P | O |
| R | O |
| I | K |
| N | I |
| G | E |

Next, jot down on another place on the paper as many words as you can think of that describe or fit the word you picked.

Then use your ideas to help you fill in the lines, like this:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S <i>Smell</i> | C <i>Chocolate chip or</i> |
| P <i>Pretty</i> | O <i>Oatmeal</i> |
| R <i>Roses</i> | O <i>Or any other</i> |
| I <i>In</i> | K <i>Kind,</i> |
| N <i>Nature's</i> | I <i>I can't get</i> |
| G <i>Garden</i> | E <i>Enough!</i> |

Now it's YOUR TURN!

You can use the space below or another piece of paper to write your own acrostic poem.



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TRY ... writing an “I AM” POEM

An “I am” poem is a series of sentences that share the personal characteristics of the person writing the poem.

First write this list of words vertically down the paper:

I am
I wonder
I listen to
I see
I am

Next, fill in each line:

I am (write 2 descriptive words about yourself)
I wonder (write something you wonder about)
I listen to (write an imaginary sound)
I see (write an imaginary sight)
I am (same as first line of poem)

If you want, you can add or substitute other phrases and complete them, like:

I feel (write how you're feeling)
I touch (write an imaginary thing you might like to be able to touch)
I say (write what you say, or might like to say, or not to say)
I want (write something you might want – real or imaginary)
I understand (write something you know)
I worry (write something that concerns you)
I believe (write something you believe in – real or imaginary)
I dream (write a real dream or a daydream you have)
I hope (write something you desire)

You can repeat the **I am** line just at the end or every few lines if you want.

Now it's YOUR TURN!



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TRY ... writing a HAIKU POEM

A haiku is a three-line poem, usually about nature or the seasons, but it can be anything. The first line has 5 syllables; the second has 7; the third has 5.

Write down the list of syllables, like this:

12345

1234567

12345

Next, fill in the number of syllables, like this:

12345=*Wind whips at my face.*

1234567=*I huddle inside my coat.*

12345=*Winter's chill, be gone!*

Now it's YOUR TURN!



TRY ... writing a CINQUAIN POEM

A cinquain is a poem of five lines invented by the poet Adelaide Crapsey in 1915. It often describes a person or object. The poem doesn't have to rhyme, but it's okay if it does.

It can work like this:

- one noun
- two adjectives
- three "-ing" verbs
- one phrase, often a "feeling" phrase
- another single noun or adjective

Write down the name of something you like. For example, "watermelon."

Then, add two words to describe this noun beneath it. For example, "juicy" and "sweet."

Next, add three action phrases (the words ending in "-ing"). For example, "dripping," "slurping," and "smacking."

Then, add a descriptive phrase. For example, "so messy to eat."

Finally, add another noun or adjective that describes the topic. For example, "yummy." And you have:

*Ice cream
Cold, sweet
Licking, melting, dripping
Chocolate mustache on my lip
Essence of summer*

Here's another example:

*Bella
so sleek and soft
stretching, meowing, curling
fur tickling around my ankles
My cat*

Now it's YOUR TURN!



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TRY ... writing a BOOK SPINE POEM

Did you know you can make a poem out of book titles? By arranging some of your favorite books, one atop the other, you can create a poem as you read the titles down the stack.

Here are some examples from Kane Miller titles:

Red, Red, Red

Now That's a Hat!

The Perfect Fit

Boy

Never Show a T. rex a Book

Pandamonia

Now it's YOUR TURN!

There are lots of other kinds of poems you might like to try your hand at. You can learn about List Poems, Shape Poems, Clerihew Poems, Limericks, and many more on the Internet. Then have fun making up your own!