### **Different Types of Poems:**

### **Limerick**

A poem that rhymes and often tells a funny or silly story. It follows the form AABBA. Here is a student created example of a comical limerick:

*I have a brother named Ben,*

*I think he’s great now and then,*

*One day he turned six,*

*And played on me tricks,*

*Now I can’t wait ‘til he’s ten.*

### **Haiku**

Many people have heard about haiku. In fact, most of us are instructed at one point or another - usually in middle school or high school - to write one of our very own. Even if you did that, do you remember what this type of poem actually is?

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry which is composed of three non-rhyming lines. The first and third lines have five syllables each and the second line has seven syllables. They often express feelings and thoughts about nature; however, you could write a poem about any subject that you would like to in this form. Perhaps the most famous haiku is Basho's "Old Pond:"

*Furuike ya*
*kawazu tobikomu*
*mizu no oto*
*Translated, this poem reads:*
*The old pond--*
*a frog jumps in,*
*sound of water.*

### **Free Verse**

While it is easy to think that poems have to rhyme, free verse is a type of poetry that does not require any rhyme scheme or meter. Poems written in free verse, however, do tend to employ other types of creative language such as alliteration, words that begin with the same sound, or assonance, the repetition of vowel sounds.

Some people find free verse to be a less restrictive type of poetry to write since it doesn't have to employ the form or the rhyming schemes of other types of poetry.

The free verse form of poetry became popular in the 1800s and continues to be popular among poets even to this day. An example is "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," which begins:

*Let us go then, you and I,*
*When the evening is spread out against the sky*
*Like a patient etherized upon a table;*
*Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,*
*The muttering retreats*
*Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels*
*And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:*
*Streets that follow like a tedious argument*
*Of insidious intent*
*To lead you to an overwhelming question.*
*Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"*
*Let us go and make our visit.*

### **Ballad**

Are you familiar with the term "ballad"? You probably are, because people sometimes refer to songs - particularly romantic ones - as ballads. In fact, ballad poems are frequently sung - or at least they are intended to be sung - and are often about love.

Usually, these ballads tell a story, often of a mystical nature. Just as a song does, ballads tend to have a refrain that repeats at various intervals throughout.

Guido Cavalcanti's "Ballad" and Sir Walter Raleigh's "As You Came from the Holy Land" both demonstrate the musical quality of the ballad. As an excerpt from Raleigh's poem demonstrates:

*As you came from the holy land*
*Of Walsinghame,*
*Met you not with my true love*
*By the way as you came ?*

*How shall I know your true love,*
*That have met many one,*
*As I went to the holy land,*
*That have come, that have gone?*

### **Elegy**

Because poems can express a wide variety of emotions, there are sad forms of poetry as well as happy ones. One of these sad forms is known as an elegy. Elegies express a lament, often over the death of a loved one. This makes elegies especially popular for funerals. Some elegies are written not only to be read out loud; they can be put to music and sung.

[Alfred Tennyson's](https://biography.yourdictionary.com/alfred-tennyson) "In Memoriam" is an elegy to a close friend was written over 20 years:

*Strong Son of God, immortal Love,*
*Whom we, that have not seen thy face,*
*By faith, and faith alone, embrace,*
*Believing where we cannot prove;*

*Thine are these orbs of light and shade;*
*Thou madest Life in man and brute;*
*Thou madest Death; and lo, thy foot*
*Is on the skull which thou hast made.*