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TOOL BOX



SYLLABLE

A basic unit of sound in a word. Some poems are measured by numbers of syllables.

syl - la - ble



RHYME

Words with the same (or similar) ending sounds.

> an orange owl sat on a towel



ALLITERATION Repeating the same beginning sound.

snakes slithered swiftly south



LINE

One row of text. Lines are not always a complete sentence or thought.

> flowers, pink flagrant bloom



RHYTHM

The beat and pattern of a poem. It makes you tap your foot.

> drip, drop, drip, drip, drop the drip drop won't stop



ONOMATOPOEIA Words that imitate sounds

Click! Boom! Splash!



STANZA

A group of lines that set apart from other groups of lines. (Like a paragraph in an essay.)



REPETITION A word or phrase that is repeated.

> the frog jumped Splash! Splash! Splash!



HYPERBOLE Using exaggeration to add drama.

I could eat a horse.



SIMILE

Comparing two things using "like" or "as."

as quick as a cat



METAPHOR

Comparing two unlike things using the word "is."

She is a bear when she's mad.



IMAGERY

Using descriptive language to help the reader form a picture in their mind.

> The crystalline water shimmered in the sunlight.



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DIRECTIONS: As you read the poems below, identify at least one example of each of the elements from the poetry tool box: syllable, line, stanza, rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, and imagery.

HINT: Use a highlighter and pencil to mark up the text as you read.

Haiku

Summer has faded Leaves falling, falling, falling Autumn has begun

Diamante

rain pitter patter falling on my nose the clouds part, out comes the sun

> puddles disappear oh look! a

> > rainbow

Cinquain

Spring Green, growth Budding, blooming, beaming Shaking off winter's chill Rebirth

Ballad

The first loud blast that he did blow, He blew both loud and shrill; A hundred and fifty of Robin Hood's men Came riding over the hill.

The next loud blast that he did give, He blew both loud and main, And quickly sixty of Robin Hood's men Came shining over the plain.

Sonnet

My silly dog, Spot, makes me laugh aloud chasing his tail or barking at wind. But, when I walk him through town, he's so proud like a blue ribbon horse, he'd surely win.

Spot is faithful, as every dog should be. He's a palace guard, his eyes on the door watching over and protecting me no one on the planet could love me more.

He cuddles and comforts me as I sleep, gives wet kisses if I have a bad dream. He's never far, by my side he does keep and when we play ball, we're always a team.

He's been with me since the day I was born, the first face I see when I wake e'ry morn.

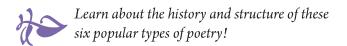
Limerick

There once was a little green frog who lived in a wet, muddy bog she leaped up one day said, "it's time to play!" and jumped on a train bound for Prague



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UNRHYMED POEMS

Haiku

A three-line poem with a total of 17 syllables. The first and last lines have five syllables each, while the middle line has seven syllables. Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. These poems are used to describe nature.

Diamante

An unrhymed poem with seven lines. These poems are written in a diamond shape, with the first and last lines being the shortest. Diamante poems are often used to compare two subjects.

Cinquain

A five-line poem with a total of 22 syllables. The first and last lines have only two syllables each. These poems often tell a story, with a focus on imagery and the natural world.

RHYMING POEMS

Ballad

A rhyming poem that is written about a heroic event or a love story. Ballads are typically written in stanzas with four lines each. Traditional ballads use an ABCB rhyme scheme.

Sonnet

A rhymed poem, typically celebrating love. The most famous sonnets are written by William Shakespeare. Traditional sonnets have 14 lines with 10 syllables in each line and a specific rhyme scheme: ABAB/CDCD/EFEF/GG

Limerick

A humorous five-line poem with an AABBA rhyme scheme. The third and fourth lines are usually shorter than the other three. Limericks often begin with the phrase "there once was..."

