

POETRY

Newspaper stories and pictures are resource material for a variety of poetry:

1. **IN A WORD.** Visualize the meaning of a single word.

sky
205
35
4
9
7

2. **SHAPE UP.** A poem's words trace the movement of an object or outline its shape.

The skier knows the freedom of flying

3. **COLLAGE.** Pictures and words collected from the newspaper can be arranged in such a way that they make a statement about a particular topic.

4. **HAIKU.** This is a Japanese poetry form that uses the eye as a camera to capture one moment in time. It describes something in or about nature. The form has seventeen syllables arranged in three lines of 5-7-5:

Snowflakes falling down
In a whirl of dancing glee
Cold ballerinas

5. **JAPANESE LANTERNS.** Create delicate Japanese verse in the shape of a lantern. The basic pattern for lanterns is shown in the following example:

LINE	SYLLABLES	VERSE
1	1	Skis
2	2	tracing
3	3	silver paths
4	4	through fallen snow
5	1	race

6. **FORMAL CINQUAIN.** This poetry form has five lines of 2-4-6-8-2 syllables. Each line adds depth to the subject:

Sunshine
warms the heavens.
Rays of golden splendor
brighten our day, give us life and
vision.

7. **DIAMANTE.** Lines of the verse take the shape of a diamond pattern in this poetry form. The subject goes through a notable change with the shift taking place in the middle lines:

Jeans
(noun)

crisp, new
(two adjectives)

clinging, hugging, appealing
("ing" or "ed" participles describe the noun)

school, dance, beach, sports
(the meaning shifts on the third of four nouns)

fraying, tearing, shrinking
("ing" or "ed" participles showing change)

old, worn
(two adjectives)

cut-offs
(noun showing completed change)

8. **LIMERICK.** A limerick is a five-line verse with humor and bounce. The pattern is a-a-b-b-a:

There once was a boy from our school
Whom everyone thought was a fool.
He went to college
And got some knowledge
Now he's rich with a Rolls and a pool.

9. **TRIOLET.** This is an eight-line rhyme with a pattern of a-b-a-a-a-b-a-b. The first, fourth and seventh lines are identical, as are the second and eighth:

Here we go again
Said the seasons to the year,
Our time swiftly comes to an end.
Here we go again,
We wish to rest, to remain among men.
We object, we rebel, is that clear?
Here we go again
Said the seasons to the year.

- 10 **CLERIHEW.** This type of verse has four lines in an a-a-b-b pattern. It gives a humorous view of a famous person, whose name is mentioned in one of the lines, usually the first. The form of poetry is named after its originator, author Edmund Clerihew Bentley:

Alexander Graham Bell
I remember him well.
He loaned me a dime
To phone a friend of mine.

11. RHYMING STORY. A rhyme pattern of a-a-b-b-c-c (and so on) is used to tell a story:

FIRST FLIGHT

High on a hill overlooking a stream,
An elephant had an exciting dream.
He dreamt he could fly over valleys and plains
Higher than eagles, swifter than trains.
He flapped his ears and throttled his trunk,
Over the hill he dashed and landed ker-plunk
Next to a wren who was building a nest;
And he sheepishly asked, "Which way is West?"

12. MOBILE. A poetry mobile is a decorative and inspiring way to highlight the rhythms and structure of a poem. The mobiles are easy to make and fun to watch.

13. REPEAT-A-WORD. Every line in this type of poem repeats a word or phrase:

Skiing is.....

Skiing is.....

Skiing is.....

and so on

14. ACROSTIC. Write a topic or title vertically on the page. Then write lines of a verse starting with each letter:

S
K
I
I
N
G

15. WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? A five-line poem in which each line answers one of the questions in the order in which they are written:

The young skier
moves swiftly
down the mountain
during the competition
with the gold medal in mind.