



# What is Poetry?



**Poetry** is a language art form that we have used throughout history, and it is still an important part of our culture. Poems use sounds and images to express emotions and experiences. A poem's form consists of **structure**, rhyme, **meter**, topic, or an established **pattern**. Poetry is a type of language that uses form. **Form** in poetry can be structure, meter, rhyme, topic, or an established pattern. **Structure** is how a poem looks on a page. A poem could be long or short. It can have long lines or short lines. The structure of poetry can help you feel happy, sad, excited, thoughtful, or even spiritual.

Poetry uses sounds to make language interesting and ear catching. There are two types of sounds in poetry: meter and rhyme. The **meter** in poetry is considered the beat of the poem. Just like the drums in your favorite song, words have syllables that create a beat in language. How many syllables an author uses determines what kind of meter the poem will have. Poetry also uses **rhyme**, or two words that sound exactly alike or very similar, to create form. Poetry usually has a specific topic or subject the poem is going to be about. Many poets pick to write about nature or their favorite pet, but the beauty of poetry is that you can write about anything. Establishing a pattern can also be a great way to show that you are writing poetry. A **pattern** in poetry could be repeating words, length of sentences, or breaking poems into separate paragraphs. Now let's learn about some different types of poems. (Information courtesy of <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-poetry-lesson-for-kids.html>)

- **Acrostic Poem:** Is a poem that spells out a particular word or phrase using the first letter from each line.
- **Haiku:** A short Japanese poem that is 3 lines total. First line is 5 syllables, second is 7 and the third has 5 again.
- **Blank Verse:** Poetry written with a precise meter, usually iambic pentameter, that does not rhyme.
- **Rhymed Poetry:** Poetry that has rhyming vowel sounds at particular moments. (assonance)
- **Free Verse:** Poetry that lacks a consistent rhyme scheme, metrical pattern, or musical form.
- **Sonnet:** A 14-line poem, usually about love, that has internal rhymes within the lines.
- **Ode:** A short lyric poem that praises an individual, an idea, or an event.
- **Limerick:** A 5-line poem that consists of a single stanza, an AABBA rhyme scheme, and the subject is a short funny tale, or description.
- **Lyric poetry:** A short, emotionally expressive poem with a songlike quality that is narrated in first person.
- **Epigram:** A 2-to-4-line poem that is short, witty, and usually sarcastic.
- **Epitaph:** A short statement that may appear on a gravestone and can be funny.
- **Concrete poetry:** A poem whose shape or appearance matches the topic it is written about.



# Poetry in a Bag



**Purpose:** Students will be introduced to Florida agriculture commodities. Students will write adjectives about each commodity and create a poem as a group. Students will be able to contribute adjectives and create a collaborative poem.

**Background:** A **commodity** is a primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold. A commodity is a raw product that can be used as is, or transformed into something else, usually increasing its value. Examples of raw commodities are peanuts, corn, and coffee.

**Materials:** brown paper bags, pictures of commodities on bags, paper, writing utensils

## Activity:

1. Have students gather into groups of 4-6 people.
2. Give each student an index card and each group a commodity bag.
3. Instruct students to individually write 3-5 adjectives about their groups' commodity. Students will show they are finished when their index card is in the commodity bag.
4. Read the adjectives aloud and see if the students can guess the commodity. (Optional)
5. Have groups write a poem about their commodity using the adjectives in their bag. Adjectives that were repeated must be used the number of times they were repeated.
6. Lastly, have students share their poems with the class and discuss each commodity.

## Some Poetic Vocabulary

- **Stanza** = a set amount of lines in poetry grouped together by their length, meter or rhyme scheme.
- **Couplet** = a two-line stanza.
- **Tercet** = a three-line stanza.
- **Quatrain** = a four-line stanza.
- **Cinquain** = a five-line stanza.
- **Sestet** = a six-line stanza.
- **Meter** = the pattern of stressed syllables (long) and unstressed syllables (short) in poetry.
- **Rhyme scheme** = the pattern of rhyme that comes at the end of each line or verse.
- **Syllable** = the single, unbroken sound of a spoken or written word.