

How to Write BAD POETRY

adapted from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A577118>

*Say not that you are bad at writing good poetry,
Say instead that you are good at writing bad poetry.*

So what are the secrets of writing bad poetry?

The Basics

Unlike good poetry, the truly awful stuff can be written at lightning speed, and with very little thought. On the other hand you can agonize for hours and still write something truly appalling.

Rhyming

Bad poetry should rhyme if at all possible. Trust us, with enough thought, anything can rhyme. When it comes to finding those rhymes, the following strategy is recommended; just add the sound of the word you're trying to rhyme with to successive letters of the alphabet, until you come up with:

- A word that fits
- A word that doesn't fit (for a very bad poem)
- If you're still stuck, just go for something that you can convince your friends is an actual word (and then keep them away from dictionaries).

Here is an example of how to find a rhyme:

*Oh my love, you led me astray,
You cast me aside as the night does the day!
How I moan and I choke until I hardly speak!*

The dilemma - what to rhyme with 'speak'? Beak? Creak? Deek? Eek? Freak? Greek? Geek? Heek? (And so on... continue until you get to Zeek). Just find the first that you like. Here's an example:

I'll love you at least 'til the middle of next week!

Now you've gone to all that trouble to find all those rhymes, why waste them? Nothing says 'three minutes thought' more than an endlessly repeated sound. Here's an example:

*Boom!
It shook the room!
The sound of my doom!
Then, I smelt the fume!
And heard the death tune!
Played on a loom!
Everything went... Vroom!*

Advanced Bad Poetry

There are many techniques used by good poets to create imagery through words. These include alliteration¹, sibilance², and cacophony³. Needless to say, these are not in any way necessary in *your* poetry. However, from time to time, you may find them useful. A good rule of thumb is while in good poetry a little is good, in bad lots is best. It's impossible to overdo it. So, if 'Anna ate eighty apples avidly all around Australia' sounds good, you're *definitely* on the right track.

Haiku

The haiku deserves special consideration, not only because it is a short, meaningful type of Japanese poetry, but because it is so easy to do badly. While traditional haiku has all sorts of elements that provide atmosphere, yours need only follow the syllable rule. Your first line should have five syllables, the second seven, and the third five again. As long as you have most of your fingers intact, this should not cause a problem:

*I like bees, they're so
Yellow and black, and yellow
And black and yellow*

The Clerihew

Once you've mastered the art of bad poetry, the first thing to do is to show off to your friends; and in what better way than immortalizing them in verse? The Clerihew is the perfect vehicle for this, allowing you to appease their vanity while using all those rhymes you've so carefully uncovered..

(below from <http://www.gigglepoetry.com/poetryclass/clerihew.htm>)

Clerihews have just a few simple rules:

1. They are four lines long.
2. The first and second lines rhyme with each other, and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other.
3. The first line names a person, and the second line ends with something that rhymes with the name of the person.
4. A clerihew should be funny.

Write one clerihew about a friend of yours, and one about a celebrity.

Examples:

*N'Sync
Stink.
Their music hurts my ears.
I much prefer Britney Spears.*

*Mr. Richardson has a ninth grade class
His students are rude and crass
He can't wait to go to lunch
to get away from this bunch.*

The Sonnet

Steal from Shakespeare and Petrarch - write a 14 line poem with a rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG or ABBA ABBACDCDCD. Make sure it's about love. Make sure it's corny.

The Worst Love Sonnet Ever Written

*If love be love be love, let love be love,
your kiss is like a strawberry meringue,
you are the hand and I your winter glove,
you are the song the singing singer sang.
Your eyes are like blue sapphires painted blue
that glitter like the stars of Bollywood,
you are the sausage on my barbecue
the only piggy part that's any good,
If I were Shakespeare with a heart shaped quill,
I'd write a sonnet, heart shaped, like a heart,
my heart would be a heart shaped daffodil
and Cupid's arrow be a heart shaped dart.
You are the sun in golden lingerie
the sunny sun that never goes away.*