

Name: _____

The Poetry Experience

Poetry is a kind of writing in which **sound**, **meaning**, **rhythm** and **form** combine to create an **experience** of **feeling** and **emotion**. Poetry is a **game** played with **words**.

The Six-Word Memoir

In poetry we try to find the best possible words to express an idea, feeling or emotion. The six-word memoir is simply selecting six words that will express a truth about you; if it is true, others will be able to connect to it.

Consider these six-word memoirs:

I am happy if you are.

Fail, succeed, fail, succeed, fail succeed.

Try giving up; give up trying.

Cellphone: The new emotional teddy bear.

Finally learned “weird” is a compliment.

I can’t keep my own secrets.

I can be my own superhero.

My brain’s a box of crayons.

Now try creating a few of your own:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Acrostic Poems

Acrostic poems have a title that expresses a subject, such as a name or an idea; then each line uses a letter from the title to begin the line. See examples below:

BRAVE

Be who you are meant to be
Regardless of the blindness
Around you, below you, above,
Victory moves through darkness
Enlightening through love

FREE

Forever blessed with knowing
Renewed vision of
Enduring world without
End

Try one or two of your own:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. On the left side, there are two short vertical segments, one near the top and one about halfway down, which appear to be part of a binding or margin indicator. The rest of the page is empty except for the lines.

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Haiku

Haiku (from a word meaning “playful”) is a form of poetry where there are three lines that combine to create a feeling, often of nature or the natural world.

One type of haiku follows the pattern of:

Five syllables in the first line

Seven syllables in the second line

Five syllables in the third line

The emphasis in haiku is wordplay and the formal pattern 5-7-5, creates a challenge based on the sounds in the words on each line.

Read the following haiku and then create your own:

Even in Berkeley (5)
Hearing the cry of the crow (7)
I long for Berkeley (5)

Underneath the moon (5)
A frog jumps into the pond (7)
The sound of water (5)

The small black kitten (5)
Plays beneath a cloudy sky (7)
Waiting for raindrops (5)

This is all there is (5)
The long path comes to an end (7)
The face of Buddha (5)

_____ (5)

_____ (7)

_____ (5)

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Haiku (Continued)

_____	(5)
_____	(7)
_____	(5)
_____	(5)
_____	(7)
_____	(5)
_____	(5)
_____	(7)
_____	(5)

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Magnetic Poetry

Magnetic Poetry allows you to rearrange magnetic words on a metal “page” in interesting combinations and patterns. The way that words work together to create meaning is called syntax, and this experience can produce some wonderful and unexpected poems.

You will work together with the others at your table to create a collaborative poem. Follow these steps:

1. The first poet will select **no more than five words** to arrange for the first line of the poem. Try to do this in one minute or so.
2. The second poet will arrange the second line with **no more than five words**.
3. The third poet will arrange the third line with **no more than five words**.
4. The fourth poet (if there is one) will arrange the fourth line with **no more than five words**.
5. Write the finished poem here:

Rotate and repeat until each poet has had a chance to begin and finish a poem (or until time runs out).

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Magnetic Poetry (continued)

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Blackout or Erasure Poems

Poetry is everywhere, it's simply a matter of uncovering it; or in the case of Blackout poetry, of covering up everything but the words that will remain as a poem. You will need the following materials:

- A newspaper, or some other text.
- A marker
- A creative imagination
- An eye for words that create an image in your poetic mind

Find an article and start looking for a word or a short phrase that catches your attention; then look for other words that can combine to create an interesting image or idea. Use a pencil to underline the words that you will use in your poem and then black out the remaining text with the markers. When you are finished staple your Blackout Poem to this sheet.

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Free Verse

In free verse there are no specific rules, but you want to think carefully about the words you use and how they are arranged on the line.

Write one or two free verse poems of 7-10 lines

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Free Verse
