

Poetry Forms

Five different shapes a poem can take.

ACROSTIC	
Structure:	The first letter of each line spells out a word - usually the title.
Example:	<p>Soft fur and gentle paws, Climbing up the curtain, Always playful, never still, Tiny but quite certain.</p>
Try this:	Try yours: pick a noun (your name, an animal, a feeling).
HAIKU	
Structure:	Three lines. 5 syllables on line 1, 7 on line 2, 5 on line 3.
Example:	<p><i>Snow falls on the hills (5)</i> <i>The river is sleeping now (7)</i> <i>Winter has arrived (5)</i></p>
Try this:	Try yours: pick a season or a feeling.
RHYMING COUPLET	
Structure:	Two lines. The last word of each line rhymes .
Example:	<p><i>The cat sat on the windowsill,</i> <i>Watching the world stay so still.</i></p>
Try this:	Try yours: think of a pair of rhyming words first.
LIMERICK	
Structure:	Five lines. Lines 1, 2, 5 rhyme (longer). Lines 3, 4 rhyme (shorter). It is usually funny.
Example:	<p><i>There once was a dog from Mile End,</i> <i>Who thought he was best as a friend.</i> <i>He could fetch and roll over,</i> <i>He liked sweet meadow clover,</i> <i>And he wagged a tail he could bend.</i></p>
Try this:	Try yours: start with a place or a name.
FREE VERSE	
Structure:	No rules. No fixed rhyme, no fixed syllables. The poet chooses the shape.
Example:	<p><i>Morning.</i> <i>The kettle hisses awake,</i> <i>and toast remembers it was bread.</i></p>
Try this:	Try yours: write about an ordinary moment with unusual attention.