

# How to write a

# BIOPOEM

One of the main purposes of poetry, is to be able to express yourself and show the world who you are. This bio poem will do just that! Follow the form and the example below to write your bio poem on the next page.

## FORMULA OF A BIO POEM

**(Line 1)** First name

**(Line 2)** Three or four adjectives that describe the person

**(Line 3)** Important relationship (daughter of . . . , mother of . . . , etc)

**(Line 4)** Two or three things, people, or ideas that the person loved

**(Line 5)** Three feelings the person experienced

**(Line 6)** Three fears the person experienced

**(Line 7)** Accomplishments (who composed . . . , who discovered . . . , etc.)

**(Line 8)** Two or three things the person wanted to experience

**(Line 9)** His or her residence

**(Line 10)** Last name

*Let's read an example!*

Scout

Tomboy, brave, intelligent, loving

Sister of Jem, daughter of Atticus

Lover of justice, chewing gum, reading, and summers

Who feels outrage, happiness, and fright

Who fears Boo's dark house, owls at night, and teachers

Who gives friendship to someone in need

Who would like to see all mockingbirds sing freely

Resident of Maycomb, Alabama

Finch



# How to write an

# I AM POEM

An *I Am Poem* allows you to express who you are to your reader by using three literary devices: metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. These devices can create powerful images in poetry to express your ideas, feelings, and thoughts.

## LITERARY DEVICES IN AN I AM POEM

### METAPHOR

A metaphor is a direct comparison between two different things that actually have something important in common. For example, "She is a black widow spider" might suggest the person is cold, dangerous, or cruel.

### SIMILE

A simile is very similar to a metaphor. The only difference is that a metaphor is a direct comparison, but a simile uses the words *like* or *as*. For example, "She is like a warm breeze" might suggest a person is warm, calm, or pleasant.

### HYPERBOLE

A hyperbole is an exaggeration used for effect or to enhance a description. For example, "She always has a million things to do" suggests that a person is very busy, but it is an exaggeration because they likely do not actually have that many things to do.

**Now, you will write a comparison poem including at least ten literary devices (a mix of metaphors, similes, or hyperboles) that describe who you are. On the final copy page, trace the outline of your hand and write the poem within your palm. Get creative! Use different shapes, sizes, colors of letters, and feel free to include images that represent you as well.**

## SAMPLE RESPONSE

I am an oak tree, strong and tall, protecting my  
family against the wild winds of life. I am a  
crystalline spider. Sharp, spiky, deadly when  
threatened, yet strangely compelling.  
I am the spark that sets the world ablaze.

# How to write a HAIKU

A Haiku is a type of Japanese poetry. Some common themes include nature, feelings, or experiences. A haiku must "paint" a mental image in the reader's mind.

## FORMULA OF A HAIKU

The most common form for haiku is three short lines. The first line contains five (5) syllables, the second line seven (7) syllables, and the third line contains five (5) syllables. This poem does not rhyme.

## THE ROSE

*by Donna Brock*

The red blossom bends (5)  
and drips its dew to the ground. (7)  
Like a tear it falls. (5)

This poem is a haiku because the lines contain 5, 7, and 5 syllables, and it paints a mental image in our mind of the flower. You will write three haikus!



# How to write an **ACROSTIC**

An **acrostic** is a poem or other writing in an alphabetic script in which the first letter in each line of text spells out another message.

## SAMPLE POEM

**A**fter an extensive winter  
**P**retty Tulips  
**R**ise from the once  
**I**cy ground bringing signs of  
**L**ife.



Try to connect the lines of poetry together to form sentences (like the poem above). Although this is more challenging than simply writing a word or a simple sentence beside each of the letters, by connecting the lines together, the outcome of the poem is usually much stronger.

**T**hunk goes the bagel as it drops  
**O**ut of sight while I  
**A**nticipate  
**S**trawberry cream cheese.  
**T**ime passes slowly until it  
**E**jects.  
**R**eady for a bite!



# How to write a

# CONCRETE POEM

Although poetry is typically written from left to right on a page, a concrete poem forms a picture of the poem's topic using the letters and words to form the image.

## CONCRETE POEM EXAMPLES

The puffer jumps out of water into thin air. swimming slowly. Swishing its spiny with its invisible tail. venomous bite. The puffer

Two Synchronized Swimmers balancing life. Alone shark. Two opposites in perfect peace. A light in the dark. Two poles of the world.

Dusk  
Above the  
water hang the  
loud  
flies  
here  
O so  
gray  
then

What  
When  
Where  
In us  
A pale signal will appear  
Soon before its shadow fades  
Here in this pool of opened eye  
No upon us As at the very edges  
of where we take shape in the dark air  
this object bares its image awakening  
ripples of recognition that will  
brush darkness up into light

even after this bird this hour both drift by atop the perfect sad instant now  
already passing out of sight

toward yet-untroubled reflection  
this image bears its object darkening  
into memorial shades Scattered bits of  
light No of water Or something across  
water Breaking up No Being regathered  
soon Yet by then a swan will have  
gone Yes out of mind into what  
vast

pale  
hush  
of a  
place  
past  
sudden dark as  
if a swan  
sang

# How to write an

# ANTONYM DIAMANTE

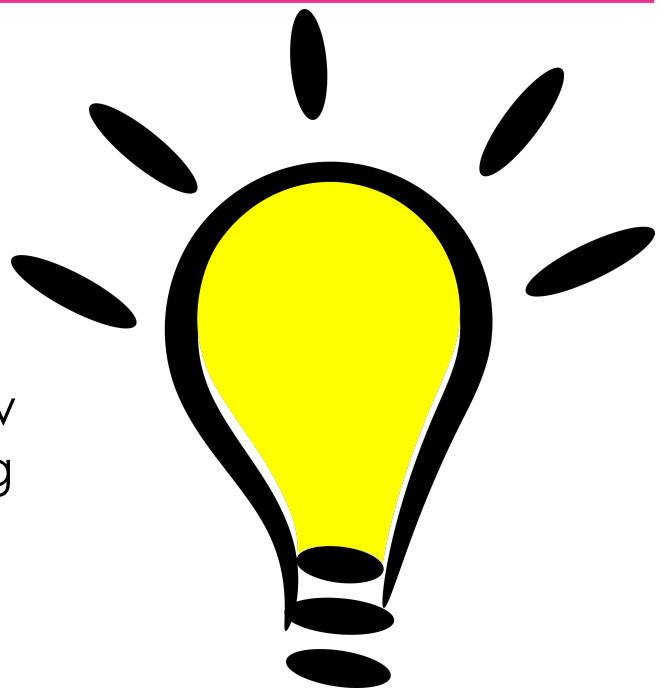
An antonym diamante poem is all about opposites. The poem combines opposites in a single, seven-line poem: the word of the last line is the opposite of the word of the first line. The lines in between describe either the starting word or its opposite. On paper these poems look like a diamond, so we call them after the Italian word for diamond—**diamante**. You will write two diamante poems.

## FORMULA OF AN ANTONYM DIAMANTE

<b>LINE 1</b>	1 noun (will be the opposite/antonym of line 7)
<b>LINE 2</b>	2 adjectives describing the noun in line 1
<b>LINE 3</b>	3 verbs ending in -ing related to line 1
<b>LINE 4</b>	2 nouns about line 1 and 2 nouns about line 7
<b>LINE 5</b>	3 verbs ending in -ing related to line 7
<b>LINE 6</b>	2 adjectives describing the noun in line 7
<b>LINE 7</b>	1 noun (the opposite/antonym of line 1)

## SAMPLE POEM

Light  
Clear, brilliant  
Glowing, shining, revealing  
Mirror, candle - whisper, shadow  
Deepening, sleeping, shrouding  
Black, quiet  
Dark





# How to write a LIMERICK

A limerick is a funny poem containing five lines. It has a very distinctive rhythm and rhyme pattern. The rhyming pattern is AABBA (the last words of line 1, 2, and 5 rhyme, and the last words of lines 3 and 4 rhyme). A limerick has a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables! Look at the pattern below and the example to help you start to make your own limericks. You will write two limericks!

## SAMPLE POEM

The bolded and underlined words are “stressed syllables,” while the other syllables are unstressed. Read the poem out loud to hear the stresses!

There **was** an old **man** from Peru  
Who **dreamed** he was **eating** his **shoe**.  
He **awoke** in the **night**  
With a **terrible** **fright**  
To dis**cover** it's **totally** **true**.

No one is entirely sure where the limerick originated. It's usage was first documented in England in 1898, but the name is generally taken to be a reference to the city of Limerick in Ireland.



# How to write a

# QUATRAIN

Quatrains are any four-line stanzas with a rhyming pattern. You will write at least two quatrains in your poem, but you can write more if you need to. Your topic can be about anything that is interesting to you! The only rules are that each stanza must be 4 lines, and there must be a rhyming pattern (AABB, ABAB, ABBA, AAAA, ABCB, etc.).

## SAMPLE POEMS

The mountain frames the sky (a)  
As a shadow of an eagle flies by. (a)  
With clouds hanging at its edge (b)  
A climber proves his courage on its rocky ledge. (b)



I found a secret pool, a little nook (a)  
Where I could lie and watch the fish below (b)  
But no amount of coaxing made them go (b)  
For worms, or bits of bacon on my hook. (a)

