

The Wonderful World of Poetry

What Is Poetry?

Poetry is any written work with carefully chosen and organised vocabulary that inspires a reader's imagination and enables them to feel certain emotions.

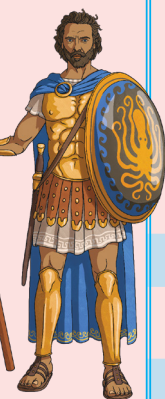
Did You Know...?

Most historians feel that poetry started as part of early religious ceremonies or as an early way of telling stories.

Types of Poetry

Many types of poetry have a strict **rhyming scheme**, a limited unstressed and stressed syllable count or structure that they must follow. Several of the most well-known kinds of poetry are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free verse poems.

- **Epic Poems:** Epic poems are long, narrative poems that are normally written about heroes or heroines.
- **Nursery Rhymes:** Nursery rhymes are usually short children's poems that follow a simple rhyme. Some of the most familiar nursery rhymes are Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.
- **Sonnets:** A sonnet has 14 lines with a specific number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line.
- **Odes:** An ode is an emotional and expressive poem that praises an individual, idea or event.
- **Haikus:** Haikus are three-line poems with a set number of syllables in each line. There are five in the first and third lines and seven in the second line.



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- **Limerick:** Limericks are short, humorous verses with five lines that started in 19th-century Ireland. The first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other.
- **Free Verse:** Free verse poetry follows the natural rhythms of speech rather than any specific, organised pattern or rhyming scheme. A famous free verse poem is 'A Song of Myself' by American poet Walt Whitman.

World Poetry Day

Celebrated annually on 21st March, World Poetry Day was started by **UNESCO** in 1999 to celebrate poetry across various cultures.

There are many engaging and exciting ways to celebrate World Poetry Day, such as attending a poetry reading, sharing favourite poems, writing or reading poems or learning more about a specific type of poetry.



Glossary

rhyming scheme: A pattern of rhymes that are consistent throughout or appear in a particular order within the lines of a poem.

UNESCO: This stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Its goal is to promote world peace and security through encouraging countries to work together in education, arts, sciences and culture.

Questions

1. Which type of poem has only three lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ limerick
- ☐ haiku
- ☐ sonnet

2. Where were limericks first written? Tick one.

- ☐ Japan
- ☐ the UK
- ☐ America
- ☐ Ireland

3. Which type of poetry has a five syllable, seven syllable, five syllable count? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ sonnet
- ☐ free verse
- ☐ haiku

4. How do historians think poetry started? Tick **two**.

- ☐ as a medical cure
- ☐ as part of religious ceremonies
- ☐ as a way of storytelling
- ☐ as a way of sending messages

5. Fill in the missing words.

Free verse poetry follows the _____ pace of speech rather than any organised pattern or _____ scheme.

6. Look at the section called **Types of Poetry**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'funny'.

7. Which type of poetry would you not like to try at all? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which type of poem has only three lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ limerick
- ☒ **haiku**
- ☐ sonnet

2. Where were limericks first written? Tick one.

- ☐ Japan
- ☐ the UK
- ☐ America
- ☒ **Ireland**

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- ☐ ode
- ☐ sonnet
- ☐ free verse
- ☒ **haiku**

4. How do historians think poetry started? Tick **two**.

- ☐ as a medical cure
- ☐ as part of religious ceremonies
- ☐ as a way of storytelling
- ☒ **as a way of sending messages**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Free verse poetry follows the **natural** pace of speech rather than any organised pattern or **rhyming** scheme.

6. Look at the section called **Types of Poetry**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'funny'.

humorous

7. Which type of poetry would you not like to try at all? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I wouldn't like to write a limerick because I am not very good at coming up with words that rhyme and make sense together.

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What Is Poetry?

Poetry is any written work with carefully chosen vocabulary that is organised and ordered in such a way as to encourage any reader to imagine a vibrant and colourful scene or to feel specific emotions.

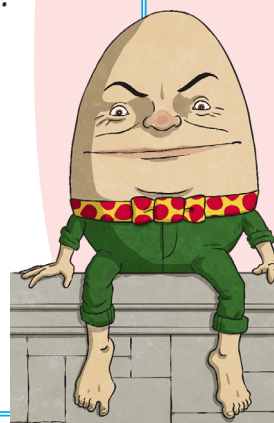
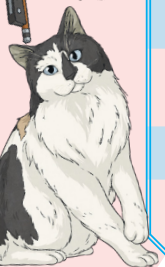
Did You Know...?

It is believed by many that poetry started as part of early religious ceremonies or as an early form of storytelling.

Types of Poetry

There are many different ways of writing poetry and some poetry formats have a strict **rhyming scheme**, **metre** count or structure that must be followed. Several of the most popular kinds of poetry are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free verse.

- **Epic Poems:** Epic poems are long, narrative poems normally written about heroes or heroines and they usually include other elements of an individual culture, such as myths and legends.
- **Nursery Rhymes:** Nursery rhymes are usually short children's poems that follow a simple rhyme. They commonly date between the 15th and 19th centuries. Some of the most familiar nursery rhymes include Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.
- **Sonnets:** A sonnet almost always has 14 lines with a specific number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line.
- **Odes:** An ode is an emotional and expressive poem that is typically short and praises an individual, idea or event.



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- **Haikus:** Haikus are three-line poems with a set number of syllables in each line. There are five in the first and third lines and seven in the second line. Haikus date back to 17th-century Japan.
- **Limerick:** Limericks are short, humorous verses with five lines. They also have a specific rhyme scheme. The first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. They originated in 19th-century Ireland.
- **Free Verse:** Free verse is a type of poetry that follows the natural rhythms of speech rather than any specific, organised pattern or rhyming scheme.



World Poetry Day

Celebrated annually on 21st March, World Poetry Day was created by **UNESCO** in 1999 to celebrate poetry across the planet and to acknowledge that most cultures have some form of poetic expression.

There are many different ways to celebrate World Poetry Day, such as attending a poetry reading, sharing favourite poems, writing or reading poems or learning more about a specific type of poetry.



Glossary

metres: The amount and differences between stressed and unstressed syllables.

rhyming scheme: A pattern of rhymes that are consistent throughout or appear in a particular order within the lines of a poem.

UNESCO: This stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Its goal is to promote world peace and security through encouraging countries to work together in education, arts, sciences and culture.

Questions

1. Which type of poem has five lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ haiku
- ☐ limerick
- ☐ sonnet

2. Where were haikus first written? Tick one.

- ☐ Japan
- ☐ the UK
- ☐ America
- ☐ Ireland

3. In what century were limericks first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 15th century
- ☐ 17th century
- ☐ 19th century
- ☐ 20th century

4. Who are nursery rhymes written for? Tick one.

- ☐ adults
- ☐ children
- ☐ teachers
- ☐ parents

5. Fill in the missing words.

Some of the most _____ rhymes include Hey Diddle Diddle
and Humpty Dumpty.

6. Look at the section called **What Is Poetry?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'particular' or 'certain'.

7. Why do you think the author included suggestions on how to celebrate World Poetry Day?
Explain your answer.

8. What was your favourite fact that you learnt from this text? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which type of poem has five lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ haiku
- ☒ **limerick**
- ☐ sonnet

2. Where were haikus first written? Tick one.

- ☒ **Japan**
- ☐ the UK
- ☐ America
- ☐ Ireland

3. In what century were limericks first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 15th century
- ☐ 17th century
- ☒ **19th century**
- ☐ 20th century

4. Who are nursery rhymes written for? Tick one.

- ☐ adults
- ☒ **children**
- ☐ teachers
- ☐ parents

5. Fill in the missing words.

Some of the most **familiar nursery** rhymes include Hey Diddle Diddle
and Humpty Dumpty.

6. Look at the section called **What Is Poetry?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'particular' or 'certain'.
specific

7. Why do you think the author included suggestions on how to celebrate World Poetry Day?
Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include their suggestions as a way of getting children involved in World Poetry Day and as a way of helping us to choose how to celebrate it.

8. What was your favourite fact that you learnt from this text? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think my favourite fact about poetry is that poems that are free verse don't really follow any rhyme scheme. I think it would be much easier to write a poem that is free verse.

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What Is Poetry?

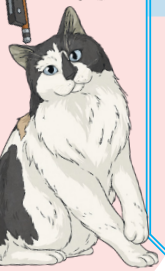
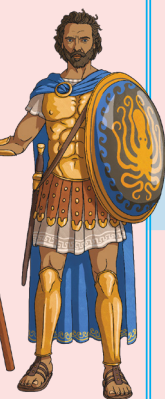
Poetry is any written work with carefully selected vocabulary that is organised and ordered in such a way as to encourage any reader to imagine a vibrant and colourful scene or feel specific emotions.

Various scholars believe poetry started as part of early religious rituals or as an early form of oral storytelling.

Types of Poetry

There are numerous ways of writing poetry. Many poetry formats have a strict **rhyming scheme**, **metre** count or structure that they must adhere to. Several of the most recognisable kinds of poetry are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free verse.

- **Epic Poems:** Epic poems are long, narrative poems normally written about heroes or heroines and they often include other elements of an individual culture, such as myths and legends. Some of the oldest and most iconic epic poems are Homer's two ancient Greek poems about the Trojan War and its aftermath: the 'Iliad' and the 'Odyssey'.
- **Nursery Rhymes:** Nursery rhymes are short poems that follow a simple rhyme or two and are generally aimed at children. They commonly date between the 15th and 19th centuries. Some of the most familiar nursery rhymes are Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.
- **Sonnets:** A sonnet is a uniquely structured poem comprising of 14 lines with a specific number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line. Some of the most renowned sonnets are those written by famous British playwright William Shakespeare, such as 'Sonnet 116'.



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- **Odes:** An ode is an emotional and expressive poem that is typically short and praises an individual, idea or event. One of the most famous odes is 'Ode to a Grecian Urn' by British poet John Keats.
- **Haikus:** Haikus are three-line poems with a set number of syllables in each line: five in the first and third lines and seven in the second line. Haikus date back to 17th-century Japan.
- **Limerick:** Limericks are short, humorous verses with five lines. They also have a specific rhyme scheme. The first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. They originated in 19th-century Ireland.
- **Free Verse:** Free verse is a type of poetry that follows the natural rhythms of speech rather than any specific, organised pattern or rhyming scheme. A famous free verse poem is 'A Song of Myself' by American poet Walt Whitman.

World Poetry Day

Celebrated annually on 21st March, World Poetry Day was established by **UNESCO** in 1999 to celebrate diversity by exploring poetry worldwide.

Celebrate World Poetry Day

There are several interesting ways to celebrate World Poetry Day, such as attending a poetry reading, sharing favourite poems, writing or reading poems or learning more about a specific type of poetry.

Glossary

metres: The amount and differences between stressed and unstressed syllables.

rhyming scheme: A pattern of rhymes that are consistent throughout or appear in a particular order within the lines of a poem.

UNESCO: This stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. Its goal is to promote world peace and security through encouraging countries to work together in education, arts, sciences and culture.



Questions

1. Which type of poem has 14 lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ limerick
- ☐ haiku
- ☐ sonnet

2. In what century were haikus first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 15th century
- ☐ 17th century
- ☐ 19th century
- ☐ 20th century

3. Name one example of an epic poem.

4. Look at the section called **What Is Poetry?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'ceremonies'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

_____ of the most _____ kinds of poetry are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free verse poems.

6. Explain one additional way of celebrating World Poetry Day that is not listed in the text. Why did you choose this way?

7. Why do you think the author included several kinds of poetry with descriptions?

Explain your answer.

8. Do you think it is important to celebrate World Poetry Day? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which type of poem has 14 lines? Tick one.

- ☐ ode
- ☐ limerick
- ☐ haiku
- ☒ **sonnet**

2. In what century were haikus first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 15th century
- ☒ **17th century**
- ☐ 19th century
- ☐ 20th century

3. Name one example of an epic poem.

Accept any of the following:

- **the Iliad**
- **the Odyssey**

4. Look at the section called **What Is Poetry?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'ceremonies'.

rituals

5. Fill in the missing words.

Several of the most **recognisable** kinds of poetry are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free verse poems.

6. Explain one additional way of celebrating World Poetry Day that is not listed in the text. Why did you choose this way?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to read a few poems and then write a letter to the author of those poems. It would be fun to tell them how I felt about them and why I liked them. I might even receive a response.

7. Why do you think the author included several kinds of poetry with descriptions?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author included several kinds of poetry to help the reader to understand that poetry is not written in just one way and how the various types are different.

8. Do you think it is important to celebrate World Poetry Day? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think it is important to celebrate World Poetry Day because poetry is found around the world and has been written for generations.