

# The Wonderful World of Poetry

## What Is Poetry?

Poetry is any written work with meaningful vocabulary choices that are organised and ordered in such a way as to encourage any reader to imagine a vivid scene or feel specific emotions.

## Did You Know...?

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

## Types of Poetry

There are several types of poetry. Many poetry genres have a strict **rhyming scheme**, **metre** count or structure that they must follow. In contrast, others have only a few or no rules at all. Some 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. They often include other elements of a specific culture, such as myths and legends. Some of the oldest and most famous 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 aimed at children. They commonly date between the 15th and 19th centuries and follow a simple rhyme, making children familiar with certain speech patterns. Some of the most famous nursery rhymes are Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.
- **Sonnet:** A sonnet is a highly structured poem comprising of 14 lines with a specific number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line. Some of the most admired and studied sonnets are those written by famous, British playwright William Shakespeare, such as 'Sonnet 116'.



# The Wonderful World of Poetry

- **Ode:** An ode is an emotional and expressive poem that is typically short and praises an individual, idea or event. One of the most famous ode poems is 'Ode to a Grecian Urn' by British poet John Keats.
- **Haiku:** A haiku is a poem that is made up of three simple lines. Each line has a set number of syllables: 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 (aabba): 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 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 'Song of Myself' by American poet Walt Whitman.



## World Poetry Day

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

## Celebrate World Poetry Day

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

## Glossary

**linguistic:** Having to do with the study of languages.

**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. What kind of poem is 'Song of Myself'? Tick one.

- ode
- limerick
- haiku
- free verse

2. Which type of poem can date back as far as the 15th century? Tick one.

- nursery rhyme
- sonnet
- limerick
- haiku

3. What nationality was John Keats?

---

4. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'colourful'.

---

5. Fill in the missing words.

Poetry is any written work with \_\_\_\_\_ vocabulary choices that are organised and ordered in such a way as to \_\_\_\_\_ any reader to imagine a vivid scene or feel specific emotions.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about poetry in 25 words or fewer.

---

---

---

7. Which kind of poetry would you like to try and write? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

8. What sort of events do you think a person might write an ode about? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. What kind of poem is 'Song of Myself'? Tick one.

- ode
- limerick
- haiku
- free verse**

2. Which type of poem can date back as far as the 15th century? Tick one.

- nursery rhyme**
- sonnet
- limerick
- haiku

3. What nationality was John Keats?

**John Keats was British.**

4. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'colourful'.  
**vivid**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Poetry is any written work with **meaningful** vocabulary choices that are organised and ordered in such a way as to **encourage** any reader to imagine a vivid scene or feel specific emotions.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about poetry in 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: There are many different forms of poetry that often follow certain rules or have no rules. Poetry has been around for a very long time.**

7. Which kind of poetry would you like to try and write? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to try and write an ode about the last day of school. It is such a fun time and full of emotion that I think it would be a good subject to write an ode about.**

8. What sort of events do you think a person might write an ode about? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Christmas might be a great event to write an ode about because it is supposed to be full of good emotions and it has many different smaller events, such as dinner or opening presents, going on within it.**

# The Wonderful World of Poetry

## What Is Poetry?

Poetry is any written work with carefully chosen vocabulary that is organised and ordered in such a way as to provoke an emotional response, a memory or an imaginative scene in one's mind. Some poems' structures and metres (the amount and differences between stressed and unstressed syllables) can also create a rhythm that gives their verses a sense of movement or atmosphere.

Various scholars feel poetry most likely started as part of early religious rituals. Numerous other historians propose that it was probably an early form of oral storytelling: a way of retelling the myths and legends of a culture.

## Types of Poetry

There are many different forms of poetry. Several poetry genres have a strict rhyming scheme (a pattern of rhymes that are consistent throughout or appear in a particular order within the lines of a poem), a fixed metre count or a specific structure that they must follow. In contrast, others have only a few or no rules at all. Some of the most well-known types 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 a hero or heroine. They often include or express an individual culture's myths and legends. Some of the oldest and most famous epic poems are the Old English poem Beowulf and 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 aimed at children. Most nursery rhymes date between the 15th and 19th centuries and follow a simple rhyme, often aiding children in becoming familiar with particular speech patterns. Some of the most famous nursery rhymes are Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.



# The Wonderful World of Poetry

- **Sonnet:** A sonnet is a strictly structured poem comprising of 14 lines with an exact number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line. Some of the most recognisable sonnets are the ones written by famous British playwright William Shakespeare, such as 'Sonnet 116'.
- **Ode:** An ode is a lyrical (emotional and highly expressive) poem that is generally short and praises an individual, idea or event. One of the most famous ode poems is 'Ode to a Grecian Urn' by British poet John Keats.
- **Haikus:** Haikus are poems made up of three simple lines. Each line has a set number of syllables: five in the first and third lines and seven in the second line. Haikus date back to 17th-century Japan.
- **Limerick:** A Limerick is a short, humorous verses with five lines. They also have a fixed rhyme scheme (aabba): the first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. Their original form dates back to 19th-century Ireland.
- **Free Verse:** Free verse is a types of poetry that follows the natural rhythms of speech rather than any specific, organised structure or rhyming scheme with a particular number of syllables per line. A famous free verse poem is 'A Song of Myself' by American poet Walt Whitman.



## World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day is celebrated annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March and was adopted by UNESCO in 1999. UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The day is used to celebrate linguistic (having to do with the study of languages) diversity through the exploration of poetry by the United Nations. The United Nations is a multinational organisation established in 1945 to promote peace and security across the planet.

## Celebrate World Poetry Day

There are many different ways to celebrate World Poetry Day: attending a poetry reading, sharing favourite poems with friends, writing unique poems, reading poems or learning more about a specific type of poetry. These ideas would be a great way of marking the occasion and exploring the vast and varied world of poetry.



# Questions

1. What kind of poem is Hey Diddle Diddle? Tick one.

- ode  
 limerick  
 nursery rhyme  
 haiku

2. Draw **four** lines and match each poem to its author.

'Ode to a Grecian Urn'

'Odyssey'

'Sonnet 116'

'Song of Myself'

Homer

William Shakespeare

Walt Whitman

John Keats

3. What does UNESCO stand for?

---

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

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'spoken rather than written'.

---

5. Fill in the missing words.

These ideas would be a great way of marking the \_\_\_\_\_ and exploring the vast and \_\_\_\_\_ world of poetry.

6. Which kind of poetry would you prefer to read? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

7. What is your favourite nursery rhyme? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

8. Would you like to write a sonnet? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

9. What have you learnt about poetry that you didn't know before?

---

---

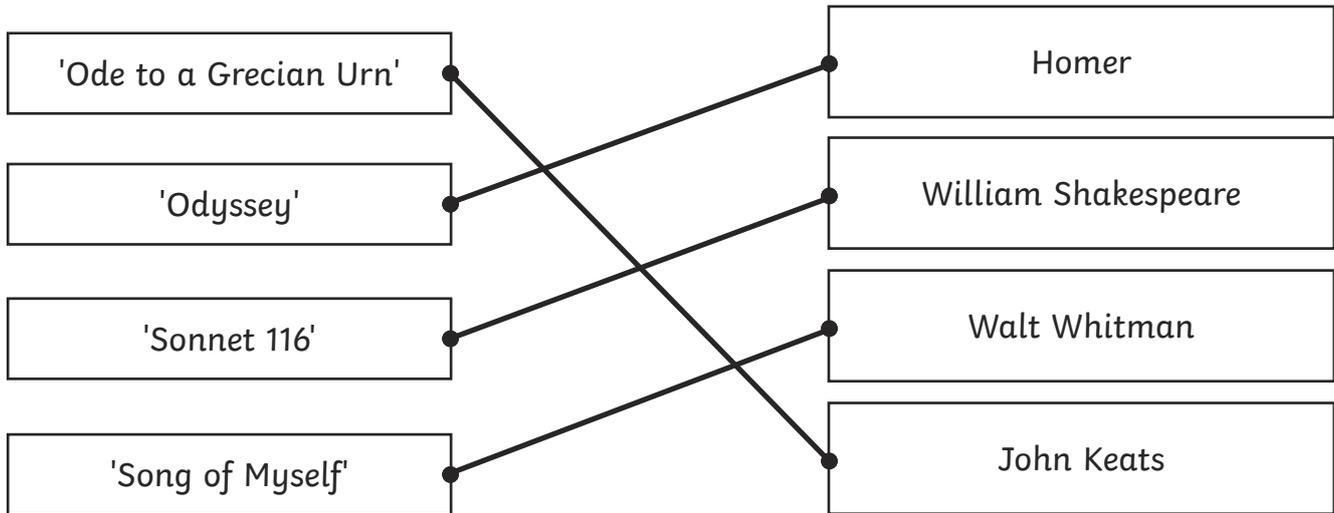
---

# Answers

1. What kind of poem is Hey Diddle Diddle? Tick one.

- ode  
 limerick  
 **nursery rhyme**  
 haiku

2. Draw **four** lines and match each poem to its author.



3. What does UNESCO stand for?

**UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.**

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

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'spoken rather than written'.  
**orally**

5. Fill in the missing words.

These ideas would be a great way of marking the **occasion** and exploring the vast and **varied** world of poetry.

6. Which kind of poetry would you prefer to read? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to read an epic poem about a Greek god or goddess because I really like learning about them and I think it would be fun.**

7. What is your favourite nursery rhyme? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think my favourite nursery rhyme is Baa Baa Black Sheep because I always enjoyed singing it with adults when I was little.**

8. Would you like to write a sonnet? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think I would like to write a sonnet because it seems pretty structured. I think it would be hard to write and keep within its rules.**

9. What have you learnt about poetry that you didn't know before?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that nursery rhymes are a form of poetry and I have also learnt about World Poetry Day. I can't wait to celebrate it this year.**

# The Wonderful World of Poetry

## What Is Poetry?

Poetry is any written work that brings evocative images, emotions or memories to mind based on its specific arrangement and use of words. In many poems, meaningful vocabulary choices are organised and ordered in such a way as to affect any reader and help them to feel or envision a poem's intended purpose. Some poems' metres (the amount and differences between stressed and unstressed syllables) can also create a rhythm that gives their verses a sense of movement or atmosphere.

It is believed by many that poetry has been around as long as history itself. Numerous scholars hypothesise that it originated in various religions and was an element of early rituals. Many other historians believe that poetry was an early form of oral storytelling: a way of expressing the myths and legends of a culture.

## Types of Poetry

There are many different kinds of poetry. Many poetry genres have a precise rhyming scheme (a pattern of rhymes that are consistent throughout or appear in a particular order within the lines of a poem), or a specific metre count or structure that they must conform to. In contrast, other types have only a few conventions or no rules at all. Some of the most famous and standard poetry formats are epic poems, nursery rhymes, sonnets, odes, haikus, limericks and free-verse poems.

- **Epic Poems:** Epic poems are long, narrative poems that are usually written about a hero or heroine performing a series of heroic deeds. They often include or express an individual culture's many myths and legends. Some of the oldest and most famous epic poems are the Old English poem Beowulf and 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 aimed at children. Most nursery rhymes date between the 15th and 19th centuries and follow a simple rhyme, enabling children to become familiar with certain speech patterns. Some of the most famous nursery rhymes are Hey Diddle Diddle and Humpty Dumpty.



# The Wonderful World of Poetry



• **Sonnet:** A sonnet is a strictly structured poem comprising of 14 lines with a specific number of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line. Some of the most recognisable sonnets are the ones written by famous British playwright William Shakespeare, such as Sonnet 116.

• **Ode:** An ode is a lyrical (emotional and highly expressive) poem originally meant to be sung. They're typically short and praise an individual, idea or event. One of the most famous ode poems is 'Ode to a Grecian Urn' by British poet John Keats.

• **Haikus:** Haikus are poems made up of three lines. Each line has a fixed number of syllables: 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 that typically contain five lines and have a set rhyme scheme (aabba): the first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. Their original form dates back to 19th-century Ireland.

• **Free Verse:** Free verse is a type of poetry that follows the natural rhythms of speech rather than any particular, organised pattern or rhyming scheme. In addition, free verse poetry does not need to rhyme or keep to a certain number of syllables per line. A famous free verse poem is 'Song of Myself' by American poet Walt Whitman.



## World Poetry Day

World Poetry Day is celebrated annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March and was adopted by UNESCO in 1999. UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The day is used to celebrate linguistic (having to do with the study of languages) diversity through the exploration of poetry by the United Nations. The United Nations is a multinational organisation established in 1945 to promote peace and security across the planet. It is a way to investigate and honour famous poets and how poetry is embedded in different art mediums, such as plays, songs and paintings.

## Celebrate World Poetry Day

There are many unique ways to celebrate World Poetry Day: attending a poetry reading or watching one online, sharing favourite poems with friends, learning about a specific type of poetry, writing unique poems or reading a book of poetry. These ideas would be a great way of marking the occasion and immersing oneself in the beautiful and diverse world of poetry.



# Questions

1. Which format of poetry is the 'Iliad'? Tick one.

- haiku  
 ode  
 limerick  
 epic

2. Draw **four** lines and match each poetry format to its description.

epic poems

lyrical poems that praise a person,  
an idea or an event

odes

short poems with a simple rhyme  
that are aimed at children

nursery rhymes

long, narrative poems that are  
usually written about a hero  
or heroine

limericks

short, humorous poems that have  
five lines and specific rhymes

3. When is World Poetry Day celebrated?

---

4. Look at the first paragraph.

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

---

5. Fill in the missing words.

It is a way to \_\_\_\_\_ and honour famous poets and how poetry is  
\_\_\_\_\_ in different art mediums, such as plays, songs and paintings.

6. How do you plan on celebrating World Poetry Day? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

7. Do you think learning about famous poetry is important? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

8. Do you think learning how to write various genres of poetry is important? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

9. What was the most important part of the text? Explain your answer.

---



---



---

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

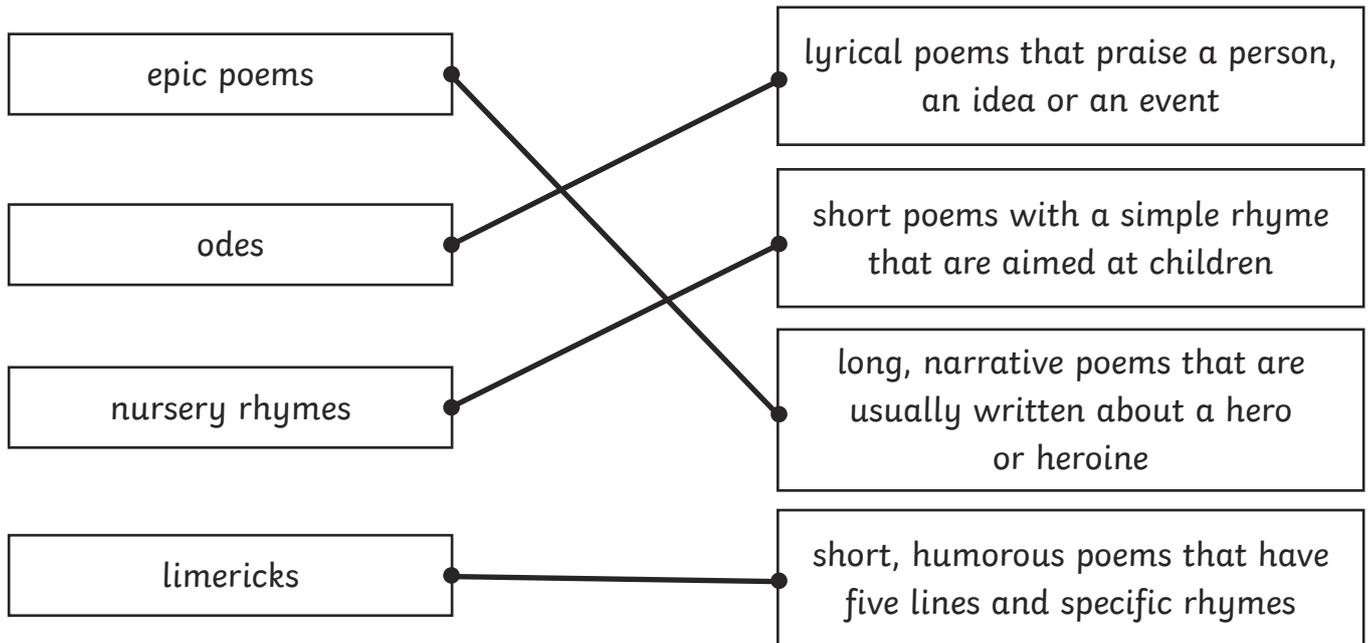
	True	False
Haikus have only three lines.		
Beowulf is an epic poem.		
Haikus originated in 18th-century Japan.		
Sonnets must have 15 lines in total.		
World Poetry Day was started by the UNESCO.		

# Answers

1. Which format of poetry is the 'Iliad'? Tick one.

- haiku
- ode
- limerick
- epic**

2. Draw **four** lines and match each poetry format to its description.



3. When is World Poetry Day celebrated?

**World Poetry Day is celebrated annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**

4. Look at the first paragraph.

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

**envision**

5. Fill in the missing words.

It is a way to **investigate** and honour famous poets and how poetry is **embedded** in different art mediums, such as plays, songs and paintings.

6. How do you plan on celebrating World Poetry Day? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to watch a poetry reading online. It would be good to hear poetry read out loud rather than reading it silently so you can better understand the rhythm and rhyme.**

7. Do you think learning about famous poetry is important? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think it is important to learn about poetry because it has been around for such a long time, is written across many cultures and is an art form in itself.**
8. Do you think learning how to write various genres of poetry is important? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think it is important to learn about different genres of poetry because you might find one you like to write and it can help pupils better grasp vocabulary and grammar concepts.**
9. What was the most important part of the text? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most important part of the text is where the author describes the various genres of poetry that are well-known worldwide. I didn't understand the differences between certain kinds of poetry until I read it.**
10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Haikus have only three lines.	✓	
Beowulf is an epic poem.	✓	
Haikus originated in 18th-century Japan.		✓
Sonnets must have 15 lines in total.		✓
World Poetry Day was started by the UNESCO.	✓	

**Award 2 marks** for all **five** correct.  
**Award 1 mark** for **four** correct.