

Ms. Contomanolis and Mr. Mellor

Name:

KEY

Date: Class notes

1/17/20

POETRY CONTEST

For the poetry contest, you must write poems in each of the following forms.

They are:

- **3 HAIKUS** (one about nature)
- **BLANK VERSE**
- **FREE VERSE**
- **SONNET**

Topics of
your choice!

Each count as their own grade.

Below are explanations of the forms and examples.

Write 3

HAIKU

Haiku: Haiku is an unrhymed, syllabic form adapted from the Japanese: three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables

Example:

"Spring Rain" by Matsuo Basho

Nature

Cold spring rain falling 5
leaking through the rusted roof 7
dropping on my face 5

One must be about nature

two about anything

Must be:

3 lines

Syllables
5, 7, 5
line 1 line 2 line 3

We suggest:

Get thoughts down first, then
get rid of words to fit format

Does not rhyme!!

BLANK VERSE

one syllable stressed
one syllable not stressed

A blank verse poem has no rhyme but does have iambic pentameter (10 syllables per line). This means it consists of lines of five feet, each foot being iambic, meaning two syllables long, one stressed followed by an unstressed.

The Structure of a Blank Verse Poem

Sounding du DUM du DUM du DUM du DUM du DUM

each foot making the verse sound like it has heart beat rhythm.

Must be
at least
10 lines

An Example of a Blank Verse Poem

Furball Friend

Sweet pet by day, hunter by night. She sleeps,
she eats, she plays. My feet, caught in white paws.
She's up the fence, watching her prey - a bird.
Poor thing, better run quick, 'cause watch, she'll pounce!
She'll sweetly beg for fuss, but don't be fooled.
'Cause one minute she'll purr and smile, then snap!
She'll spit and hiss - and oh - surprise! A mouse.
He's dead. A gift. Retracts her claws. Miaow!
Figure of eight between my legs, looks up
at me and purrs. The sound pulls my heartstrings.
Her big blue eyes like dinner plates - so cute.
Cunning she is, she knows I can't resist.
Curling up tight, we sleep entwined as one.
Despite her quirks, I would not change a claw
of her. Cheeky Sammy: my snow-white queen.

we suggest:
long
Write a paragraph,
then split
up into
lines of
10 syllables

Sonnet:

How To Write A Sonnet

Sonnet writing is easy when you understand what a sonnet is.

There are various types of sonnets, but I'm not going to talk about them and all their variations.

Instead, let's focus on the five things that most sonnets have in common:

1. They are written in iambic pentameter. 10 syllables per line
2. They are fourteen lines long.
3. They have a set rhyme scheme.
4. They have a turn or "volta."
5. They all bear the name "sonnet."

As an example, we will consider the sonnet "Death of a Sonnet writer" by Scott Ennis

He turned the fourteenth glass and said, "Begin." A
and I had fourteen minutes left to live; B
and I had fourteen unrepented sins, A
and fourteen people whom I would forgive, B

4

4 stanzas
must follow
this format

and fourteen unread books upon my shelf, A
and fourteen loves I knew I'd loved in vain, B
and fourteen dreams I'd kept within myself A
(the fourteen I'd most wanted to explain.) B

4

But fourteen minutes quickly passed away. A
I filled my pen with fourteen drops of ink- B
the fourteenth glass had offered one delay; A
and fourteen final grains retained the brink. B

4

This sonnet flowed like fourteen final breaths- A
the fourteenth line, the fourteenth grain, then death. A

2

must be 14 lines

at least
10 lines

Free Verse

Free **verse** is a literary device that can be defined as poetry that is free from limitations of regular **meter** or **rhythm**, and does not **rhyme** with fixed forms. Such poems are without rhythm and rhyme schemes, do not follow regular **rhyme scheme** rules, yet still provide artistic expression. In this way, the poet can give his own shape to a **poem** however he or she desires. However, it still allows poets to use **alliteration**, rhyme, cadences, and rhythms to get the effects that they consider are suitable for the piece.

Features of Free Verse

- Free verse poems have no regular meter or rhythm. ^{Syllables}
- They do not follow a proper rhyme scheme; these poems do not have any set rules. _{Can be rhyme, but no pattern}
- This type of poem is based on normal pauses and natural rhythmical phrases, as compared to the artificial constraints of normal poetry.
- It is also called *vers libre*, which is a French word meaning “free verse.”

EX: “A Noiseless Patient Spider”

I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,

Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,

It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,

Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,

Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space...

Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,

Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.”