

Ms. Contomanolis and Mr. Mellor

Date:

Name:

POETRY CONTEST

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

They are:

- **3 HAIKUS**
- **BLANK VERSE**
- **FREE VERSE**
- **SONNET**

Each count as their own grade.

Below are explanations of the forms and examples.

BLANK VERSE

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.

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.*

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.
- They do not follow a proper rhyme scheme; these poems do not have any set rules.
- 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.”