

POETRY

Poetry is a type of English writing. It is considered a kind of artistic expression in which words are the medium that the artist uses to convey a message to the audience. Poems do not have to follow ordinary rules of grammar. There are many types or forms of poetry; each have their own set of conventions.

The first poems were songs; they often rhymed. These poems were called lyrics. In this unit we will learn about English poetry and write poems using some basic forms.

FORM	DESCRIPTION
List Poems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each line is related to the theme of the list• Each line forms a complete thought• Each line follows a pattern
If I was/were Poems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins with <i>if I was/were</i> statement• End with <i>then I would be/I'd be</i> statement
Acrostic Poems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name of the person, thing, or place is written vertically down the left hand side of the page.• Each letter is capitalized and becomes the first letter of the word beginning each line.• The words used may describe the noun• Each line may comprise a word, a phrase or a thought that is continued on to the next line.
Haiku	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haiku is a Japanese poem with no rhyme.• Haiku poems have only three lines, each with a certain number of syllables. <p>Line 1 = 5 syllables Line 2 = 7 syllables Line 3 = 5 syllables</p>

Understanding Poetry

Poets use form to convey their messages to us. Like painters, who can select oil, acrylic, water colours, and more, Poets can choose from many **forms** or mediums when they write.

Poets can also use a number of tools or **Poetic Devices** to make their work interesting and understandable to their readers. The devices we will look at in this unit should be familiar to you; they are features of text we have studied before.

Bold
<i>Italics</i>
<u>Underline</u>
Font size, colour, or APPEARANCE
Alignment
Borders and Shading
Pictures / Graphics 
Title

Look at the sample poems . Complete the chart below by quoting lines from the poems that show how the feature has been used. Explain in point form how the feature is effective in supporting or adding to the message of the poem.

Feature	Example	How
Bold		
Italics		
Underline		
Font size, colour, or appearance		
Alignment		
Borders and Shading		
Pictures / Graphics		
Title		

My Da

He is getting older.

He is quiet.

He likes to read Westerns.

He likes his coffee hot!

At Lawless Lake

Sounds of frogs keep me
awake.

Late night games make
evenings fun.

Swimming in clean cool water
is refreshing.

Breakfast cooked on the
woodstove is so delicious!

Waiting For The Exam To Begin

I wipe my sweating palms on my pants.

I scan my notes for the hundredth time.

I focus on lists and memorize dates.

I utter a quiet prayer, "Please help me to remember Lord."

If I was a *smart* girl.

I'd never have a *broken* heart.

I'd avoid *bad* boys.

I'd watch for *red* flags.

I'd never be one of *those* girls.

Then, I'd be *safe*.

If I were rich I would have a big house.

I'd have a fancy car.

I'd take long vacations.

I'd celebrate with friends.

I'd go to concerts.

Then I would have fun!

Windy days

Immersed in snow

Never warm enough

The days drag on and on

Endlessly

Remembering summer

Winds blow from the north

Into drifts as high as my shoulder

Now we can build

The biggest snow fort

Ever

Right in our back yard!

Soft and white

Newly fallen

Over the ground

Winter wonderland



The red bird softly
Calls to me from the trees
See, remember, pray

Bright lights glimmering
A star to light the way for all
Children dream and hope



Backs bent over fields
Toiling in the burning sun
Hands aching for rest

Poetry Assignment:

Write 4 poems using each form. Present your poems in a booklet with a title page. Use features of text to enhance the messages in your poems.

item	criteria	score
Title page:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Neat✓ Uses at least 3 features of text✓ Gives title of booklet✓ Gives name of author✓ Gives date	/5
List Poem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Form used correctly✓ Uses at least 3 features of text✓ Spelling correct✓ Neat✓ Conveys a perceptible message	/5
If I Was/Were	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Form used correctly✓ Uses at least 3 features of text✓ Spelling correct✓ Neat✓ Conveys a perceptible message	/5
Acrostic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Form used correctly✓ Uses at least 3 features of text✓ Spelling correct✓ Neat✓ Conveys a perceptible message	/5
Haiku	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Form used correctly✓ Uses at least 3 features of text✓ Spelling correct✓ Neat✓ Conveys a perceptible message	/5
	total	/25