

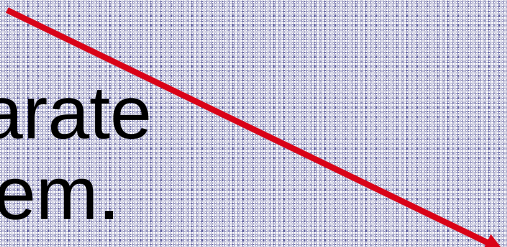
Free Verse Poetry

Free Verse Poem



Nature
It's a beautiful thing
We go outside and it's right there
But we do not seem to notice it
With trees growing all around us
Birds soaring in the air
Flowers of many colours with sweet scents
Animals resting in the shade
Water flowing through rivers, lakes, seas and oceans
Fish swimming in the flowing water
Forests growing high into the sky
We all must try to keep it so
It's a beautiful thing
Nature

Poems are written in Lines and Stanzas

- Most poems are written in lines. 
- A group of lines in a poem is called a stanza. 
- Stanzas separate ideas in a poem. They act like paragraphs.
- This poem has two stanzas.

March

A blue day

A blue jay

And a good beginning.

One crow,

Melting snow –

Spring's winning!

By

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What is Free Verse poetry?

- A type of poetry that does not have a specific and structured rhyme or rhythm
- There are no rules to follow
- Can vary freely in length of lines, stanzas, and subject

Tips for Writing Free Verse Poetry

1. CHOOSE THE WORDS CAREFULLY

- Carefully chosen words can help you create a poem that sounds like the situation, emotion, or object you are trying to portray.
- For instance, short words with sharp consonants cause the reader to stop-and-go in a choppy cadence: Cut, bash, stop, kick, lick, bite, punch, jump, stick, kiss. They almost sound like what they mean.
- Use these types of short words when you want to show excitement, fear, anger, new love, or anything that might make your heart beat quickly.
- Longer words with soft sounds cause the reader to slow down. Use them when you want to show pause, tension, laziness, rest.

Thrill Ride

Up. Up.
Click, click.
Wind blows
sharp in my ears.
My heart jumps. Skips.

It's up. It's up higher.
It's up, up the highest.
Hands grasp at the clouds.

Then a forever pause. Still. Waiting.

Finally. Whoosh!
Steep drop
down,
down,
down.



- Look how the short words move **quickly** as you read them
- Then in the middle, the longer words at the top of the coaster, **the pause before the drop**, actually force your reading to slow and “forever pause.”
- The repetition of the word “up” creates a jolting feeling.
- This is not the entire poem, as it still needs a punchy ending. How would you finish this poem?

Tips for Writing Free Verse Poetry

2. USE ALLITERATION

- Ex. “She shares shining shells”
- You can use alliteration in free verse to create a particular mood, feeling, or sound to the poem, especially when combined with careful word choice.
- For example, the word “licking” forces your tongue to the front of your mouth when you say it, like a lick!

Example:

Summer Lollipop

Licking a lolly slowly,
sunlight lapping at the lazy lake.

Lovely evening,
lovely lolly,
lazy life.



Example:

- You can almost feel yourself licking the lollipop slowly by the water with the sun setting on tiny ripples.
- Even though there is no set rhyme pattern or structure, you can almost feel a cadence in the words.



Tips for Writing Free Verse Poetry

2. USE PERSONIFICATION

- Sometimes giving an inanimate object human characteristics can breath new life into it
- Have you ever heard someone say that the sun was peeking out from somewhere, or that the clouds were lazy, or the water licked the shore?

Example:

Night crept in,
slow and smooth.

It smothered the city
in darkness.

Lights in windows
of tall buildings blinked,
One. Two. Again.

And opened
their bright eyes.



Example:

- The night takes on the persona of a thief creeping through the darkness, and the lights blink their eyes.



Another Tip:

Try This...

- write down some **key words** that relate to your story.
- Since you don't need to worry about matching up words and rhyming them, you should be able to incorporate most of these words in your poem
- **Work backwards** and create the lines of your poems around those key words to flesh out the poem.

Another Tip: Use the 5 Senses

- To **bring life to your poem**, focus on incorporating the **five senses** into your poem; devote one line to each sense, or sprinkle them throughout.
- This will help make the reader understand exactly what image or scene your poem illustrates, and encourage your audience to fully experience your work.

