



Supporting Schools entering the VERVE Poetry Festival Competition

This POETRY WORKSHEET is designed to help schools and their pupils write poems for the Verve Poetry Festival Competition. This guide will take students through the steps of analysing a poem, crafting their own poems, from generating ideas to finalising their work for submission.

The competition offers a fantastic opportunity for young writers aged 11-17 to explore the theme of **"Poets and Poetry"** and share their unique voices.

With helpful tips, writing exercises, and inspiration, this worksheet aims to make poetry writing accessible for all students.

Let's get creative and see where your words take you!

DEADLINE for submissions is FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER.

GUIDELINES for entry can be found on our website;
www.vervepoetryfestival.com/poetry-competition

alternatively, scan the QR code.



STUDY SHEET - POEM SUMMARY

Title:

Poet: Date of Publication:

Anthology:

Context that has influenced the text - *authorial, historical, social, cultural, political*:

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Narrative Point of View and Perspective:

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Form and Structure:

Description	Effect

Rhyme and Rhythm:

Description	Effect

Tone and Mood:

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STUDY SHEET - POEM SUMMARY

Poetic Devices:

Name of Technique	Quote	Explanation of Effect

Overall Themes and Ideas:

Audience Response:

TITLE:

THEME:

Context influencing the poem - *authorial, historical, social, cultural, political*:

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Narrative Point of View and Perspective:

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Form and Structure: *see form and structure support*

Description	Effect / Purpose

Rhyme and Rhythm:

Description	Effect / Purpose

Overall Themes and Ideas:

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Tone and Mood:

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Poetic Devices You Want To Use:

Technique	Attempt	Effect

THE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF A POEM ... DICTATE HOW IT IS ORGANISED, ITS RHYTHM, RHYME, METER, AND THE WAY IT VISUALLY APPEARS ON THE PAGE.

They can vary greatly, but here are some common elements:

TRADITIONAL FORMS

Many classic forms follow specific rules for structure, rhyme, and meter. Some of the most common are:

- **Sonnet:** A 14-line poem, often in iambic pentameter. Shakespearean sonnets have a rhyme scheme of ABABCDCDEFEFGG, while Petrarchan sonnets follow ABBAABBACDCDCD.
- **Haiku:** A three-line poem with a syllable structure of 5-7-5, traditionally focusing on nature.
- **Villanelle:** A 19-line poem with two repeating rhymes and two refrains, organised in five tercets (three-line stanzas) followed by a quatrain.
- **Sestina:** A complex form with six stanzas of six lines each, followed by a three-line envoi. The end words of each line in the first stanza repeat in a specific order throughout the poem.
- **Ode:** A lyrical poem that praises or glorifies a subject, usually with an elaborate structure and formal tone.
- **Ballad:** Narrative poetry that often tells a story and uses quatrains with alternating lines of iambic tetrameter and iambic trimeter, with a rhyme scheme of ABAB or ABCB.

FREE VERSE

Free verse does not follow a regular rhyme or meter but still uses other poetic devices, such as line breaks, repetition, and rhythm, to create structure. It's more fluid and allows for more creative freedom.

BLANK VERSE

Blank verse is unrhymed iambic pentameter, commonly used in narrative or dramatic poetry, such as in Shakespeare's plays or Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

CONCRETE POETRY

Concrete poems are shaped to reflect their subject matter visually. The form of the words on the page conveys meaning in addition to the actual text.

Stanza Structure

Couplet: Two lines, usually with end rhyme.

Tercet: Three lines, often with a rhyme scheme like ABA or AAA.

Quatrain: Four lines, with various rhyme schemes like ABAB, AABB, or ABCB.

Sestet: Six lines, often part of a Petrarchan sonnet or other forms.

Octave: Eight lines, also often found in sonnets or other formal poems.

METER

Meter refers to the rhythm of a poem, based on the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables. Common types of meters include:

- Iambic (unstressed/stressed, e.g., "To be or not to be")
- Trochaic (stressed/unstressed, e.g., "Tyger, Tyger")
- Anapestic (two unstressed followed by a stressed syllable, e.g., "Twas the night before Christmas")
- Dactylic (stressed followed by two unstressed, e.g., "Everywhere")
- Rhyme Scheme
- Rhyme is the repetition of similar sounds, and poems often follow specific rhyme patterns, like:
 - End Rhyme: Rhyming of the final words in two or more lines.
 - Internal Rhyme: Rhyming within a single line of poetry.
 - Slant Rhyme: Close, but not exact rhymes (e.g., "moon" and "run").

LINEATION

The way lines are broken in a poem affects its pacing, emphasis, and meaning. Enjambment (continuing a sentence beyond the line break) creates a different flow compared to end-stopped lines (where each line ends with punctuation).

REPETITION AND REFRAINS

Poets often repeat words, phrases, or lines for emphasis, rhythm, or thematic reinforcement. Refrains are repeated sections of a poem, like the chorus of a song.

FORM AS FUNCTION

Sometimes poets create their own forms or adapt existing ones to fit the message of the poem. The form itself can become a metaphor or echo the subject matter.

Which aspects of form and structure interest you most in your current poetry practice?