

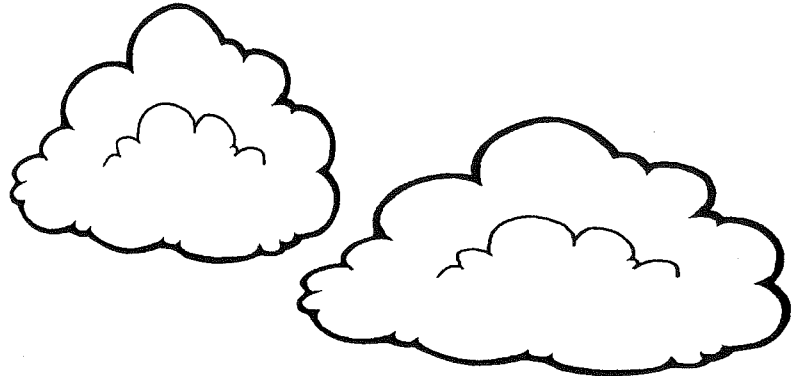
Free Verse

Free Verse

*Is poetry without rhyme
And no form to hold you in.*

*You are set free to soar
And create snapshots and
Beautiful pictures to share.*

*Let your feelings flow,
Freely, poetically, and meaningfully,
Perfect,
Just the way it is.*



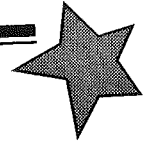
While you don't need to worry about rhyme or meter with free verse, it is important to think about poetic expression. How do the words sound? Is there a flow? Use the senses, alliteration, simile, and metaphor, etc. to make your free verse poem special. Try to find ways to convey feelings in as few, carefully chosen words as possible.

Write a free verse poem about a member of your family.

Write a free verse poem about a feeling.

Write a free verse poem about a favorite place.

Extension: Use a notebook to record a daily free-verse. Write each day about a feeling, an observation, a person or an experience. Illustrate if you like.



Limerick

A limerick is a five-line poem with a rhyme scheme of a-a-b-b-a. Some think that the limerick began in Limerick, Ireland. Others are certain that Shakespeare originated the limerick. However it began, the limerick always has a humorous tone. Limericks became very popular when Edward Lear wrote two books, *The Book of Nonsense* and *More Nonsense*. Lear writes limericks in the older form, which uses the same word at the end of the first and the last lines. Here is an example of a limerick by Edward Lear:

A flea and a fly in a flue
Were imprisoned, so what could they do?
Said the flea, "Let us fly!"
Said the fly, "Let us flee!"
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

Do you notice the alliteration in this limerick? The word flue is repeated in the last line. More modern limericks do not use the same word for the end of the first and last lines. The words do rhyme, however. Here's a funny example:

There once was a young man from Kew
Who found a dead mouse in his stew.
Said the waiter, "Don't shout
Or wave it about,
Or the rest will be wanting one too!"

Tap your foot while you read each limerick and notice the beat.

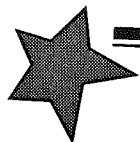
Finish the limerick below using the word bank for your ending rhymes.

Jason	Larry	Matthew	nose	see	bay	basin
clothes	carry	cashew	hasten	red	toes	hairy
dandy	said	he	chasten	berry	head	sews
handy	marry	day	Barry	"Achoo!"	Andy	candy

There once was a man named _____

Who _____

Extension: Use the word bank above to make more limericks. How many can you write?



Quatrain

A quatrain is not some strange train that is taken to the land of Qua. "Quatr" means four, and a quatrain has four lines with a rhyming pattern of a-a-b-b, a-b-a-b, a-a-a-a, or a-b-c-d. The last two are often used in long poems so that there is a pattern among all the quatrains. This is one of the most common forms of poetry. Here is an example of a quatrain from an old nursery rhyme titled "Tom, the Piper's Son."

Tom, he was a piper's son,
He learned to play when he was young,
But all the tune that he could play
Was "Over the hills and far away."

Do you see the a-a-b-b rhyming scheme? Tap your foot as you read it again. Do you feel the meter? Even the mean, giant ogre in "Jack and the Beanstalk" spoke in a quatrain:

Fee, fi, fo, fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman,
Be he alive, or be he dead
I'll grind his bones to make my bread.

Using the four lines below, write a quatrain with the ending rhymes that are already written for you. It has a rhyming pattern of a-b-a-b.

celebrate

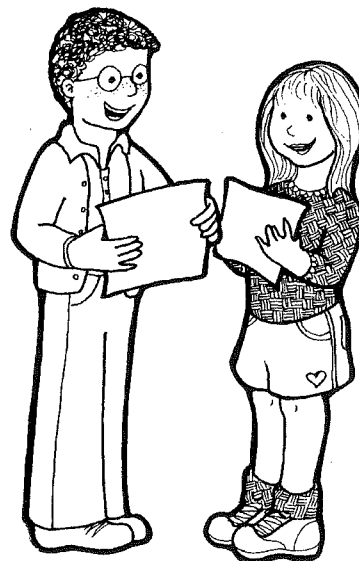
there

great

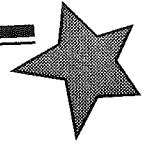
care

Now that you've written a quatrain, read it aloud while tapping out the rhythm. Do you need to make any changes? Make the changes you need so that it has a noticeable rhythm. Choose another rhyming pattern (a-a-b-b or a-a-a-a) and try another quatrain.

Extension: Get together with a friend and while you are walking, doing a chore, or just sitting and waiting, make up quatrains together. Take turns being the composer of the first line. When you or your friend come up with a first line, the other creates the second line, and so on until you have four lines. You might want to have a piece of paper handy in case you come up with some really good ones. Write a longer story poem of four or more quatrains.



Cinquain



A cinquain is a structured, five line poem. It always follows this pattern:

Line one—A one word title (*noun*)

Line two—Two words that describe the title (*adjectives*)

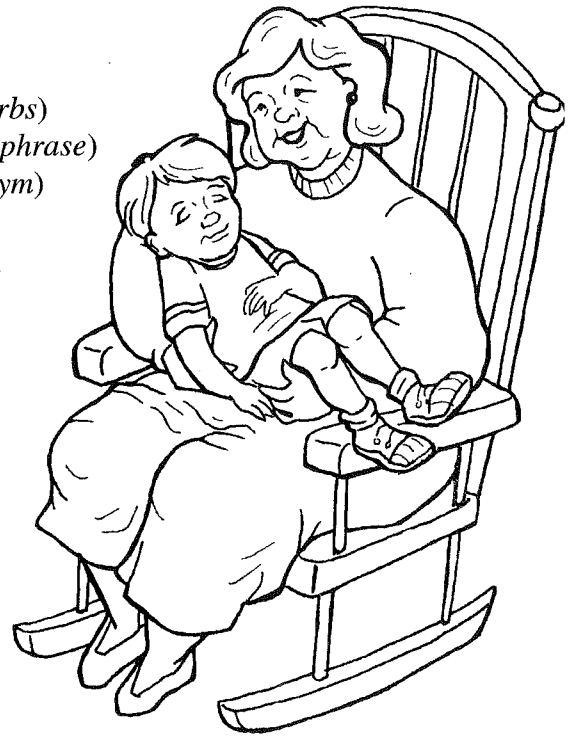
Line three—Three words that show the action of the title (*verbs*)

Line four—Four words that express a feeling about the title (*phrase*)

Line five—One word that is another word for the title (*synonym*)

Here is an example of one student's cinquain:

Nanna
 Round, Soft
 Humming, Baking, Loving
 Her lap's for me
 Grandma



Choose a topic from the list and write a cinquain on a separate sheet of paper. Add art to illustrate your cinquain.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| • grandma | • school | • vacation |
| • grandpa | • cookies | • summer |
| • baby | • mom | • Thanksgiving |
| • wind | • dad | • science |
| • snow | • friend | • pet |

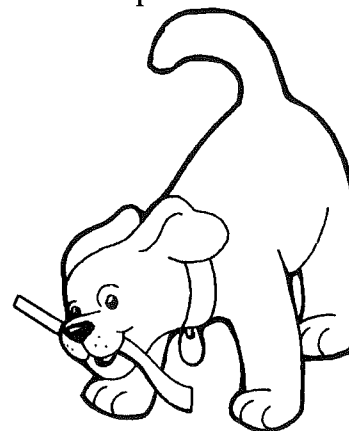
Extension: Teach cinquain writing to a younger group of students. You may need to explain nouns, adjectives, verbs, and synonyms, so be patient. Be sure they illustrate their cinquains. Write a cinquain about a family member and illustrate it or mount it on colored cardboard or construction paper. Give it as a gift.



Diamante

Are you ready for the challenge of a diamante poem? *Dia* in this use means opposite. This is a structured poem that can be a little challenging. Let's begin with an example:

1. **Puppy**
2. **Pudgy, Bouncy**
3. **Wiggling, Chewing, Squealing**
4. **Soft, Fat tummy, Tall, Lean**
5. **Sleeping, Barking, Hunting**
6. **Loyal, Patient**
7. **Dog**



A diamante has seven lines.

Lines 1 and 7 state subjects that are opposites (puppy/dog).

Line 2 contains two adjectives describing the subject of line 1.

Line 3 contains three action words specific to the subject of line 1.

Line 4 contains four adjectives. The first two describe the subject in line 1 and the second two describe the subject in line 7.

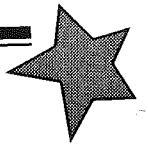
Line 5 contains three action words specific to the subject of line 7.

Line 6 contains two adjectives describing the subject of line 7.

For your first diamante, choose a pair of opposites from the word bank. Write your poem on a separate sheet of paper. When you have it the way you want it, write it on the seven lines below.

Head-Foot	Mom-Dad	Villain-Hero	Tadpole-Frog
Flower-Weed	Night-Day	Summer-Winter	Friend-Enemy
Old-Young	Shoes-Barefoot	Cold-Hot	Dog-Cat

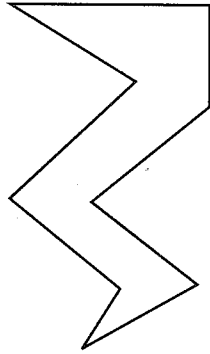
Extension: Think of a diamante as a way to write a report. If you are studying historical figures, use a diamante to describe two who were opposites. For a book report, write another diamante about two opposite characters in a book.



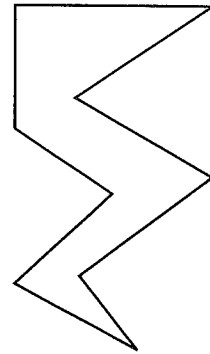
Feelings Poem (cont.)

There are many ways to write a poem about your feelings. Here are some ways to get started.

An acrostic poem might look like this:



All alone in a big place
Following strangers
Ready to cry
Alone, alone
I wish I were home
Danger is everywhere!

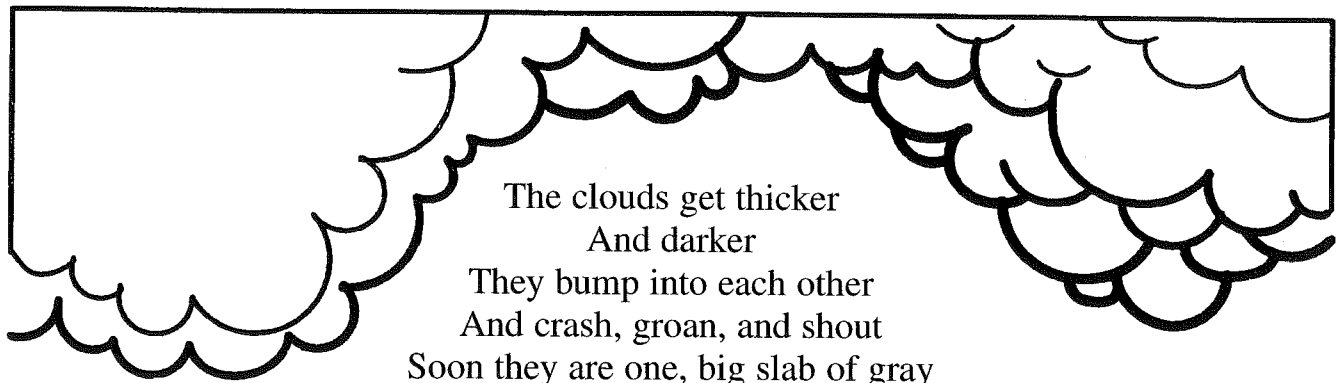


Spell the feeling word down the left side of a paper and then complete the poem.

Another way to write a feelings poem is to write the feeling word on the first line and then write a line describing that feeling using each of your five senses (seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling). Here is an example:

Embarrassed
Kim and Chris are *looking* at me,
I *hear* people laughing and joking,
My *mouth* feels like it is full of dusty moths,
My skin *feels* all prickly and my ears are burning,
I start to *smell* sweat,
I am so embarrassed!

Extension: Try writing a poem without naming the feeling. Write it in any form you wish. See if your classmates can guess the feeling. Here is an example; can you guess the feeling?



The clouds get thicker
And darker
They bump into each other
And crash, groan, and shout
Soon they are one, big slab of gray
Covering all the blue of the sky
Pressing down on me.
(Feeling: Anger)