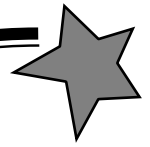


# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>This Is What Poetry Is All About</b> .....	4
What Is Poetry?	
How to Read a Poem	
How to Write a Poem	
Definitions	
<b>The Shapes That Poetry Takes</b> .....	9
Traditional Poetry	
Invented Poetry	
<b>Warming Up With Creative Activities</b> .....	18
Doodles	
I Feel as Silly As . . .	
This is the Moment	
<b>The Poetry Tool Box</b> .....	21
Alliteration	
Simile and Metaphor	
Rhyme Time	
Rhyming Shapes	
Couplets	
<b>Some Common Poems to Try</b> .....	27
Name Poem	
Haiku	
Free Verse	
Limerick	
Quatrain	
Cinquain	
Diamante	
Clerihew	
<b>Some Not-So-Common Poems to Try</b> .....	36
Word-List Poem	
Personal Poem	
Animal Poem	
Roses-Are-Red Greetings	
Feelings Poem	
More Poetry Ideas	
<b>A Poetry Writing Checklist</b> .....	46
<b>Poetry Frames</b> .....	47

# Introduction



Some students moan and groan at the mere mention of poetry. This book will enable you to teach your students that poetry is fun and creative. The first few sections are full of ideas to assist you in introducing poetry to your students. You will find guidance in reading, appreciating, and writing poetry. The definitions will help you and your students understand some of the details of the craft of poetry. You may wish to make copies of the definitions available to your students, post them in a writing centre, or simply have them handy for student questions.



*The Shapes That Poetry Takes* is a section that summarises several forms of poetry. Many of these forms will be introduced to your students in the form of activities in other sections. If you wish to try other forms that are listed in this section, there is enough of an explanation to get you started.

Included is a *Warming Up with Creative Activities* section. Writers need to warm up their creative muscles just as athletes warm up before strenuous activity. There are three activities in this section: a drawing exercise, an exercise that combines feelings with similes, and a journal activity designed to increase a writer's awareness of the present moment. Each of these activities is a common exercise for poets, both present and future.

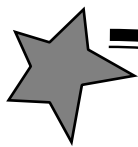
You will find a section titled, *The Poetry Tool Box*, which should be helpful in teaching some basic poetic literary tools that will increase student confidence in all forms of writing. Two sections follow that offer students the opportunity to try many different kinds of poetry, both common and not-so-common.

The book concludes with a couple of unusual poem ideas which could easily be used as creative warm ups. The class poetry magazine activity could be a culminating activity after you have completed a poetry writing or creative writing unit.

Finally, you will find a *Poetry Writing Checklist* at the end of the book. This will be useful when writing a final draft, creating a poetry magazine, or even when beginning to write.

The use of this book to supplement your own good ideas will enable you to inspire your students to achieve a greater appreciation of poetry. The activities are designed to ensure a successful experience with poetry. At the completion of several activities, your students will have not only an increased awareness of the power and joy of language but also increased self-esteem as they are able to say, "I wrote that!"





# How to Write a Poem

## To Write a Poem, Take These Basic Steps:

### 1. Choose a Subject

Just about any subject or idea will work. As you read more poetry, you will discover that poems have been written on just about every topic imaginable. It's a good idea to choose a subject that is familiar to you. Good subjects might be your pet, a family member, how you felt about an experience or event, a dream you had, or even what you see from the window of your room.

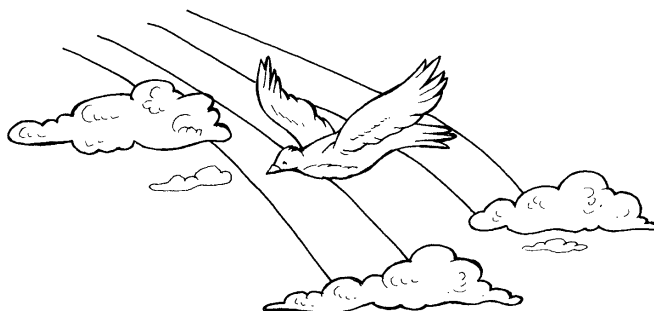
Here are a few ideas to get your imagination in gear:

Think about a subject that is very important to you. Maybe it's dogs, clean air, world peace, or new shoes. If it's important to you, it will make a good poem because you will put energy and feeling into it. Think of some subjects that are often overlooked, such as a far corner of the garage, an old toy, or even your elbow. Things we don't pay much attention to often make good poem subjects.

Think of an event in your life and write your feelings about it. It could be a death in the family, a broken arm, a flight on an aeroplane, or visiting a faraway relative. Remember your senses when you think of topics for poems. You could write a poem about the sound of a dripping tap at night, the smell of your dog coming in from the rain, or the sight of the sky after a storm.

### 2. Prepare to Write

You may want to let your idea 'incubate.' Incubation is a word many writers use for prewriting. During this time, think about your topic, add to it and think of other things that are related to your topic and what it is that you want to say about it. Ask yourself 'what if...' questions such as "What if my elbow got stuck?", or "What if I had three elbows on each arm?", or "What if my old teddy bear started to talk? Would he tell me about everything I did as a baby?"



### 3. Write the Poem

Once you have lots of ideas and notes, it's time to get your poem on paper. Some poets write their poems just once and never change them. This doesn't always happen, though, and when it does, the poet has probably spent a lot of time thinking about the poem ahead of time. Usually poems are written just like anything else that is written. There are scratch-outs, mess-ups, and changes made until it is finished. Polish it as much as you can, avoiding imitation of another poet or person. Some of the best things about poetry are that it is imperfect and individual. You can structure your poem any way you want. It can have stanzas (like paragraphs, see page 9), rhyme, or it can be free verse (see page 30). It's up to you, but don't be surprised if your poem takes shape as you are writing it.