

BOOMbox at Home

Poetry Resource Guide

Poetry is a fantastic way to express yourself. Anything can be poetry, but some writers appreciate the challenge of adhering to a specific poetic form. Explore the structure of poetry.

Basic Definitions

- **meter:** the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that make up the rhythm of the poem
- **foot:** the basic unit of measurement of meter, usually includes one stressed syllable and at least one unstressed syllable
- **rhyme scheme:** the pattern of repetition of final syllables, for example, ABA, AB, ABBA, ABCBA, where each letter represents a different syllable
- **syllable:** basic unit of pronunciation
- **stanza:** section of a poem, analogous to a paragraph

Poem Structures

- **sonnet:** 14-line poem written in iambic pentameter with an ABBA ABBA CDE CDE or ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme, often about love
- **haiku:** 3-line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable structure, often about nature
- **acrostic:** a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out the subject
- **limerick:** 5-line humorous poem with 2 long lines, 2 short lines, and 1 long line with an AABBA rhyme scheme
- **ballad:** poem that tells a story, organized in 4-line stanzas with ABAB or ABCB rhyme schemes
- **tanka:** 5-line poem with a 5-7-5-7-7 syllable structure, usually about nature, similar to a haiku

Want to explore more?

- [A Beginner's Guide to Different Types of Poems](#) by Rebecca Hussey: This guide has more information on these and other types of poetry, including examples.
- [Glossary of Poetic Terms](#) from Poetry Foundation: This glossary has explanations of over 200 different poetry terms.

What will you learn today?