

Introducing the Many Faces of Poetry

By Nyoka Hall

Week 1: What Is Poetry?

Poetry is a type of literature or artistic writing that attempts to stir a reader's imagination or emotion. Make it personal!

Poetry can be a haven, a voice to the voiceless, a joyful song to the heavy hearted, and a way to grip your heart for the glory of God. It is a tool used in the Word of God to exemplify an extension of God's creativity. Poetry can also be in the form of a song.

Look around in nature, and you will see the amount of detail and creativity the Creator showed in the things He created. Words are not an exception. Take a look at the first words spoken at creation: "Let there be light, and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). God could have simply thought it, and it would have happened. However, He chose to speak light into being with words.

In the next twenty weeks, we will explore many literary elements found in poetry. My hope is that you will have at least one favorite element of poetry by end of this course.

Day 1 Activity

Click the link and listen to this song then write how you feel. Use this as your first poem in this course.

https://youtu.be/AKG_3u_kdJ8

SchoolhouseTeachers.com note: Parents should closely monitor children's use of YouTube and Wikipedia if you navigate away from the videos and articles cited in these lessons. We also recommend viewing the videos on a full screen setting in order to minimize your students' exposure to potentially offensive ads and inappropriate comments beside or beneath the video.

Day 2 Activity

1. Create a flashcard for the following term: *poetry*.
2. Complete the poetic terms matching activity on the next page.

Poetry Terms Activity

Write the letter of the correct match next to each problem. The words with * will be directly incorporated in this class. A dictionary may be helpful for this activity.

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| _____ Lyric | a. Intentionally exaggerated figures of speech |
| _____ Haiku* | b. Poetry written without a regular rhyme scheme, meter, or form |
| _____ Cinquain | c. Poem that expresses personal feelings or thoughts of the speaker |
| _____ Limerick | d. Brief poem with three lines—5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables |
| _____ Free Verse* | e. Five-line stanza |
| _____ Ballad | f. Poem that tells a story in a simple verse form |
| _____ Sonnet* | g. Short lyric poem composed in iambic pentameter with a twist in meaning, known as a “turn,” toward the end. |
| _____ Hyperbole | h. Humorous poem with five lines and a strong rhythm |
| _____ Meter* | i. Rhythm of syllables in a line of verse or in a stanza of a poem |

Day 3 Activity

Why use poetry and poetic devices? Poets, songwriters, and writers in general enjoy using poetry and poetic devices to enhance their work. Give examples of how poetry or poetic devices can be used below.

1. Tell a story



2. Express a feeling or mood

3. Represent a thought or idea

4. Describe and reveal a scene

Day 4 Activity

Memorization

1. A good skill to have is memorization. Memorization means to commit to memory or learn by heart. This skill helps promote creativity and a higher level of retention. Practice the poem “Unbreakable” by Belinda Van Rensburg and be ready to recite it.

<https://www.christart.com/poetry/poem/2746>