

# Read & Respond #1

Use the text below to answer the question.

A rhyme scheme is the pattern of the rhymes at the end of each line of a poem. Letters are often used to describe the rhyme scheme. If a quatrain, or a group of four lines of poetry, has four rhyming lines, then the rhyme scheme would be AAAA. If every other line of the quatrain rhymes, then the rhyme scheme would be ABAB. Every time a new rhyme is introduced, a new letter is added to the rhyme scheme. For example, a quatrain where the second and fourth lines rhyme, but the first and third lines don't, would have a rhyme scheme of ABCB.

Read this excerpt from Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!"

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,  
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won

**What is the rhyme scheme in this excerpt?**

- A. AAAA
- B. AABB
- C. ABAB
- D. ABCB

# Read & Respond #2

Use the text below to answer the question.

A poetic form is a type of poem that has a specific structure or set of rules, including meter, rhyme scheme, length and subject matter. Two poetic forms are limericks and haikus.

The origin of the limerick is unknown, but these humorous poems became popular in England in the 19th century, when Edward Lear's *A Book of Nonsense* was printed. Limericks have five lines that rhyme AABBA, and they're sometimes rude or vulgar to the point of obscenity.

Haikus are another type of short poem, containing only three lines and 17 syllables. They are traditional to Japan and don't have a specific rhyme scheme or meter. Haikus are usually observations about nature or the seasons.

According to the passage, what is one major difference between haikus and limericks?

- A. the ways in which they rhyme
- B. the number of verbs used in them
- C. the kinds of people who read them
- D. the types of books in which they appear

# Read & Respond#3

Use the text below to answer the question.

A ballad is a type of poem that's been passed down orally through spoken word or song. Because ballads have been told and retold over the years, their authors are generally unknown. Ballads are sometimes called narrative poems because they recount heroic, tragic or comic stories. They often focus on a person or a dramatic event. Ballads can be—but don't have to be—quite long, containing many rhyming stanzas.

Read this excerpt from “Barbara Allen” by Anonymous.

In Scarlet town, where I was born,  
There was a fair maid dwellin',  
Made every youth cry Well-a-way!  
Her name was Barbara Allen.

All in the merry month of May,  
When green buds they were swellin',  
Young Jemmy Grove on his death-bed lay,  
For love of Barbara Allen.

Based on this excerpt, what is one reason why “Barbara Allen” is considered a ballad?

- A. It is set to music.
- B. It takes place in England.
- C. It recounts a historic battle.
- D. It tells a story about a person.

# Read & Respond #4

Use the text below to answer the question.

When a poem does not have a specific rhyme, rhythm, meter and/or length, it's written in free verse. While free verse has no set rules, it often contains poetic elements like figurative language and sound devices.

Figurative language is descriptive language that means more than just its literal meaning. Examples of figurative language include similes, metaphors, hyperbole and personification.

Sound devices, including alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia, are used by poets to create emphasis and meaning through the sound of their words.

According to the passage, what must a poem include to be considered free verse?

- A. figurative language
- B. an ABAB rhyme scheme
- C. onomatopoeia or alliteration
- D. none of the above

# Read & Respond #5

Use the text below to answer the question.

Another poetic form is the concrete poem. Also called shape poems, concrete poems are arranged on the page to form a shape that relates to their subject. These poems sometimes have a specific rhyme and meter, but they're more often written in free verse. In a concrete poem, the picture created, and the effect it produces, is more important than the form of the stanzas, lines and words.

Read "The Mouse's Tale," an excerpt from the novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.



**What is the defining characteristic that makes "The Mouse's Tale" a concrete poem?**

- A. It rhymes and has a regular meter.
- B. It looks like a mouse's tail.
- C. It's written in free verse.
- D. It fills the whole page.