

Poetry

Life Skills YouthZone



Instructions

Please read the information below. Copy and paste these questions into an email, answer them, and send them back. Each question section corresponds to a section of this packet.

Music

Read the song aloud as if it were a poem.

What is your favorite line?

Why?

What do you think this song/poem is trying to convey?

Is there a part of your song that uses alliteration?

Is there a part of the song that uses figurative language?

What sort of imagery is used?

Spoken Word

What did that make you feel?

How does his presentation compare to poets you have heard in the past?

What was your favorite part? Why did it speak to you?

On **Tuesday, april 21 at 6:00 attend this [virtual open mic](#)** with Colorado Poet Laureate, Bobby LeFebre. This will be a fantastic event with one of the world's best slam poets. You are encouraged but not required to read a poem of your own.

What is poetry?

Poetry is all around you, from advertisements to music but what is it? Why is it different from regular speech? Typically poetry is planned speech which strives to emphasize emotion, feelings or a specific idea using rhythm and distinctive style.

Poetry as an art form predates written text. The earliest poetry is believed to have been recited or sung, employed as a way of remembering oral history, genealogy, and law. Poetry is often closely related to musical traditions, and the earliest poetry exists in the form of hymns and other types of song such as chants.

One of the best things about poems is that they really can be whatever you want them to be, their job is to get emotions out. They can be two lines or two thousand pages, they can rhyme or not. The whole idea is that the word works for you, not the other way around. Poetry does not care for proper grammar or punctuation. Poets are not afraid to break the rules of language. Throughout millenia, poets have used similar tools (not rules) to create their poems. Familiarize yourself with the terms below, you will need them for your assignment about music.

Alliteration is a repetition of the same consonant sounds in a sequence of words, usually at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable: “descending dew drops;” “luscious lemons.” Alliteration is based on the sounds of letters, rather than the spelling of words; for example, “keen” and “car” alliterate, but “car” and “cite” do not.

Assonance is the repetition of similar internal vowel sounds in a sentence or a line of poetry, as in “I rose and told him of my woe.”

Figurative language is a form of language use in which the writers and speakers mean something other than the literal meaning of their words.

Imagery is the concrete representation of a sense, impression, feeling, or idea that triggers our imaginative re-enactment of a sensory experience. Images may be visual (something seen), aural (something heard), tactile (something felt), olfactory (something smelled), or gustatory (something tasted). Imagery may also refer to a pattern of related details in a poem.

Rhyme is the repetition of identical or similar concluding syllables in different words, most often at the ends of lines. Rhyme is predominantly a function of sound rather than spelling; thus, words that end with the same vowel sounds rhyme, for instance, day, prey, bouquet, weigh, and words with the same consonant ending rhyme, for instance vain, rein, lane. The rhyme scheme of a poem, describes the pattern of end rhymes.

Rhyme schemes are mapped out by noting patterns of rhyme with small letters: the first rhyme sound is designated a, the second becomes b, the third c, and so on.

Rhythm is the term used to refer to the recurrence of stressed and unstressed sounds in poetry. This is also known as the meter. Poets rely heavily on rhythm to express meaning and convey feeling. Caesura is a strong pause within a line of poetry that contributes to the rhythm of the line. When a line has a pause at its end, it is called an end-stopped line. Such pauses reflect normal speech patterns and are often marked by punctuation. A line that ends without a pause and continues into the next line for its meaning is called a run-on line or enjambment.

Stanza is a grouping of lines, set off by a space, which usually has a set pattern of meter and rhyme.

Tone conveys the speaker's implied attitude toward the poem's subject. Tone is an abstraction we make from the details of a poem's language: the use of meter and rhyme (or lack of them); the inclusion of certain kinds of details and exclusion of other kinds; particular choices of words and sentence pattern, or imagery and figurative language (diction). Another important element of tone is the order of words in sentences, phrases, or clauses (syntax)

Music

The part of your life that is probably most filled with poetry is in music. In fact, the word lyric comes from the greek word lura or lyre, and was first used to describe poems that were backed with music. Did you know that Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize in literature for his songwriting? Think of your favorite song with lyrics and write it down. Read the song aloud as if it were a poem. Please answer the questions that were provided at the top of this document in an email.

Your Turn

You are a poet too and you can make a poem about anything that is on your mind. Chose one of these prompts. Get your feelings out on paper. Don't worry about how it sounds, don't worry about spelling or grammar. Just focus on the feelings, the essence of your experience.

When you write a line you like or interests you, build off of it- what objects are associated with the feeling you had? Was there anyone around? Did the weather affect how it all felt? There is not an incorrect way to write a poem. Try to enjoy the process.

When you have a few lines, play with the order. What part is most important to you? Should it go first in the poem or should there be a build up to it? Try repeating different words. Again, there is no wrong way to do this.

Email two versions of your poem.

- Share feelings on the social hierarchy at school. Speak as an observer or from a perspective where this affected your life.
- Describe the first moment that you experienced any kind of prejudice in high school. It could have been racism or classism. Explore your feelings from that moment.
- Examine a moment that you experienced social injustice from teachers. This might be where favoritism affected you or you were punished unfairly.
- Explore the way that your first real loss affected you. This might be the loss of a pet, friend, or family member.

Spoken Word

Poets have long enjoyed a special place in society. Because of their skill with words and their ability to hide meaning in plain view, they are able to speak truth to power in ways that other members of society are not. Court Jesters often were poets who could make fun of royals to their faces.

While poets exist in all areas of life, an exciting branch of poetry has developed in the last few decades. Rap battles in the 80s set the groundwork for Slam Poetry and Spoken word. These forms of poetry play with the melody of words, timing and vocal emphasis. Often, poets will come together to recite their poems in a competition.

For the first time in 2019, Colorado's Governor named a slam poet as the state's poet laureate. Bobby LeFebre is a national poetry champion and Tedx speaker. Watch [this video](#) and answer the questions that were provided at the top.

Sources

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