



Writing

FREE VERSE POEMS

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

Free Verse Poems

-Free verse poems are poems that do not have to follow a set structure. As the name suggests, free verse poems are free!

-Free verse poems do not have to rhyme in a certain way or have lines of a certain length. They also do not have to look a certain way on the page. Free verse poems are all about the poet expressing ideas in imaginative and interesting ways.

-Free verse poems are a great way to use words and structures in your own way in order to present a certain subject or theme (idea). A strong style should be used to hold the poem together.

-There are many different types of free verse poems, including monologues and conversation poems. Many free verse poems using informal language and unusual word choices.



Content – What am I writing about?

-Free verse poems can be written about just about anything! May free verse poems are written about emotions and experiences that are individual to the poet.

You should always aim to appeal to the reader's five senses.

-Think what does the thing you are writing about look, smell, sound, feel and taste (if you can eat it) like?

Some other important questions to consider

-Where does it live? How would you describe its habitat?

-Where in the world can you find it?

-How does it make you feel? How do you imagine it feels?

-What objects does it use? What things does it eat?

-What do other people think of it?

-Free verse poems may tell a story, describe a subject, or explain an emotion.

-Some free verse poems are monologues. This means that they are written by a single voice in the first person. The poet may take on the voice of someone else (e.g. a famous historical person, a pet, etc.) and imagine things from their view (using empathy). This is called a dramatic monologue.

-Conversation poems have two or more voices, talking to each other. The poet should ensure that they create two distinct voices when writing conversation poems (e.g. using formal/ informal language, word choices, etc.)



The Snake

Slide on up
My collar you see,
Don't shout or scream,
You're safe with me,
My scaly skin
Cascades my spine,
Don't be scared,
It's fine SSSSNAP!!!



Language – What words and techniques should I use?

You should consider your word choices, in order to create a vivid picture in the mind of the reader. This will help them to imagine what you are writing your poem about. You can do this by carefully using:

Nouns (things): e.g. rather than 'tree', be more exact, e.g. 'willow' or 'redwood.'

Adjectives (describing words): e.g. rather than the 'big' ocean, the 'vast' or 'sprawling' ocean/

Verbs (actions): e.g. rather than 'runs', you could use 'sprints' or 'staggeres.'



Free verse poems do not have to rhyme – don't force it!

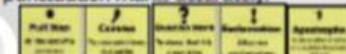
-Rhyming words sound the same at the end.

-For example, snow and go, door and more.

-Some free verse poems rhyme unusually, in order to give them a unique flow/rhythm.

Punctuation Checklist

Punctuation should be used for effect and to make things clear. You should use these punctuation marks accurately.



Similes are when you compare one thing to another thing using 'as' or 'like', e.g. 'sleeping like a log.'

Metaphors are when you state that one thing is another thing for effect, e.g. 'you are my sunshine.'

Alliteration is when you use the same sound at the beginning of words, e.g. 'The beast battered the boat.'

Onomatopoeia is when the sound of the word is the same as the sound being described, e.g. bang, crash.

Informal Language is the language used in casual conversation. It creates the impression that someone is talking/ writing to someone that they know.



In your writing, remember to also use the spelling, grammar and handwriting rules that you have learnt.

Structure – How do I set my poem out?

Poem Length: Your poem can be as long or as short as you choose. But remember, it needs to be long enough to get your main ideas across to the reader.

Line Length: Lines can be as long or as short as you choose. You do not need to have a set number of syllables (beats) in each line and you do not need to rhyme your poem. This can make free verse poetry one of the easiest forms to write!

Line Breaks: You choose where one line ends and another line begins. It doesn't have to be at the end of a sentence. Ending a line in the middle of a sentence can make the reader think about a particular idea. For example, in the dog poem on the left, the line is ended after the word 'wait' to make the reader pause, like the waiting dog!

Stanzas: Stanzas are paragraphs in poetry. They often group similar ideas, or things that have happened at the same time or place. However, the poet may choose to insert a stanza break after an important idea, to give the reader time to think before they move onto the next idea.