

# Poetic Forms

**Poem:** (noun) a composition in verse with language selected for its beauty and sound.

An **acrostic** poem uses the first letters in a topic word to begin each line of the poem. The topic word's letters should be written vertically. All lines in the poems should be related to or describe the topic word. It does not need to rhyme.

Sample:

## Give

By Carrie A. Thomas

G  
racious  
I  
nspiring  
V  
oluntary  
E  
nergetic

A **haiku** poem is a "picture poem" that doesn't rhyme, and it has three lines with 17 beats:

Line 1 has 5 beats

Line 2 has 7 beats

Line 3 has 5 beats

Sample:

## Lake Michigan Dunes

By Kathy Veenstra

Huge, rolling sand dunes  
Formed by glaciers on the move  
Held in place by grass.

A **cinquain** is a five-line poem that does not rhyme and is set up like this:

Line 1 is a single word (usually a noun)

Line 2 has two words (usually 2 adjectives)

Line 3 has three words (usually verbs ending in -ing)

Line 4 has a descriptive 4-word phrase

Line 5 is a single word (usually a synonym for the first word or repeats it)



Sample:

A Type of Grass  
By Alex

Grass  
Green, brown  
Swaying, growing, poking  
Helps keep dune sand  
Dune Grass

Up and Down the Dunes  
By Ryan

Dunes  
Sandy, warm  
Sitting, growing, collapsing  
Made by different rocks  
Sandy hills

