

Poetry Packet

This packet contains various types of poetry. The purpose of this packet is to allow you to have fun imitating different poetic forms.

1. Haiku (Set of Three)
2. If I Were
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20. I Used To

Directions

Practice writing each type of poem.

Submit your five best poems, neatly written on copy paper.

- Include a color illustration with each poem.

Be prepared to share your poems with the class.

Haiku—Set of Three

Haiku is a short, unrhymed poem based on a single image. Traditional Japanese Haiku focused on nature but you don't have to. The poems are 3 lines with a 5-7-5 pattern. This means 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the last line.

Example:

In the Chinese vase
Flowers lose petals softly
Waiting for water

Or

School in the winter
Is fine but then the spring comes
And I want to play

If you choose the Haiku form, you must do a set of at least three that have a common theme.

If I Were

If I Were in Charge of the World
~Judith Viorst

If I were in charge of the world
I'd cancel oatmeal,
Monday mornings,
Allergy shots, and also Sara
Steinberg.

If I were in charge of the world
There'd be brighter night lights,
Healthier hamsters, and
Basketball baskets forty-eight
inches lower.

If I were in charge of the world
You wouldn't have lonely.
You wouldn't have clean.
You wouldn't have bedtimes,
or "Don't punch your sister."
You wouldn't even have sisters.

If I were in charge of the world
A chocolate sundae with whipped
Cream and nuts would be a vegetable.
All 007 movies would be G,
And a person who sometimes
forgot to brush,
And sometimes forgot to flush,
Would still be allowed to be
In charge of the world.

**Write your own poem using the format
below.**

If I were in charge of the world
I'd cancel _____,
_____,
_____, and also
_____.

If I were in charge of the world
There would be _____,
_____, and
_____.

If I were in charge of the world
You wouldn't have _____.
You wouldn't have _____.
You wouldn't have _____,
or "_____."
You wouldn't even have
_____.

If I were in charge of the world
_____ would
be a vegetable.

And a person who sometimes
forgot to _____,
And sometimes forgot to _____,
Would still be allowed to be
in charge of the world.

When I . . .

How to write it:

Begin each line with When I . . .

Make a list of things you see, hear, read, feel, etc. that bother or disturb you. You must have a minimum of eight lines.

After completing your list add the last line: "I stand up" or "I will stand up"

Example:

When I See

When I see abuse.

When I see hunger.

When I see pain.

When I see fear.

When I see apathy toward learning.

When I see a disgust for knowledge.

When I hear hatred

When I hear apathy

I will stand up.

Acrostic poem:

Take a word (at least 7 letters long) and create a poem that has to do with that word by creating a sentence beginning with each letter.

Life whispers by like a dream.

I hear the sounds of laughter.

Sounds of friends playing

Then growing and leaving.

Even though they are friends now

Nothing lasts forever, so listen.

In the distance

No one stays forever. They're

Gone before you know it.

'I Am' poem

Example:

I Am Hopeless

by S. O'Rourke

I am a strong woman who still feels.
I wonder when it will stop hurting.
I see the laughter around me and
I want to join in.
I am a strong woman who still feels.

I pretend that nothing will ever hurt
me again.
I feel my heart shattering like glass
thrown at the wall.
I touch those shards and feel my
fingers bleed.
I worry that my life is truly pointless.
I cry when no one is near to hear my
plea for help.
I am a strong woman who still feels.

I understand that I will never stop
hurting.
I say, "Why won't it stop?"
I dream of blackness and cool air.
I try to find my dreams.
I hope someone stops me.
I am a weak woman who feels
nothing.

I Am poem

I am (2 characteristics)

I wonder

I see

I want

I am (repeat the first lines of the
poem)

I pretend

I feel

I touch

I worry

I cry

I am (repeat the first line of the
poem)

I understand

I say

I dream

I try

I hope

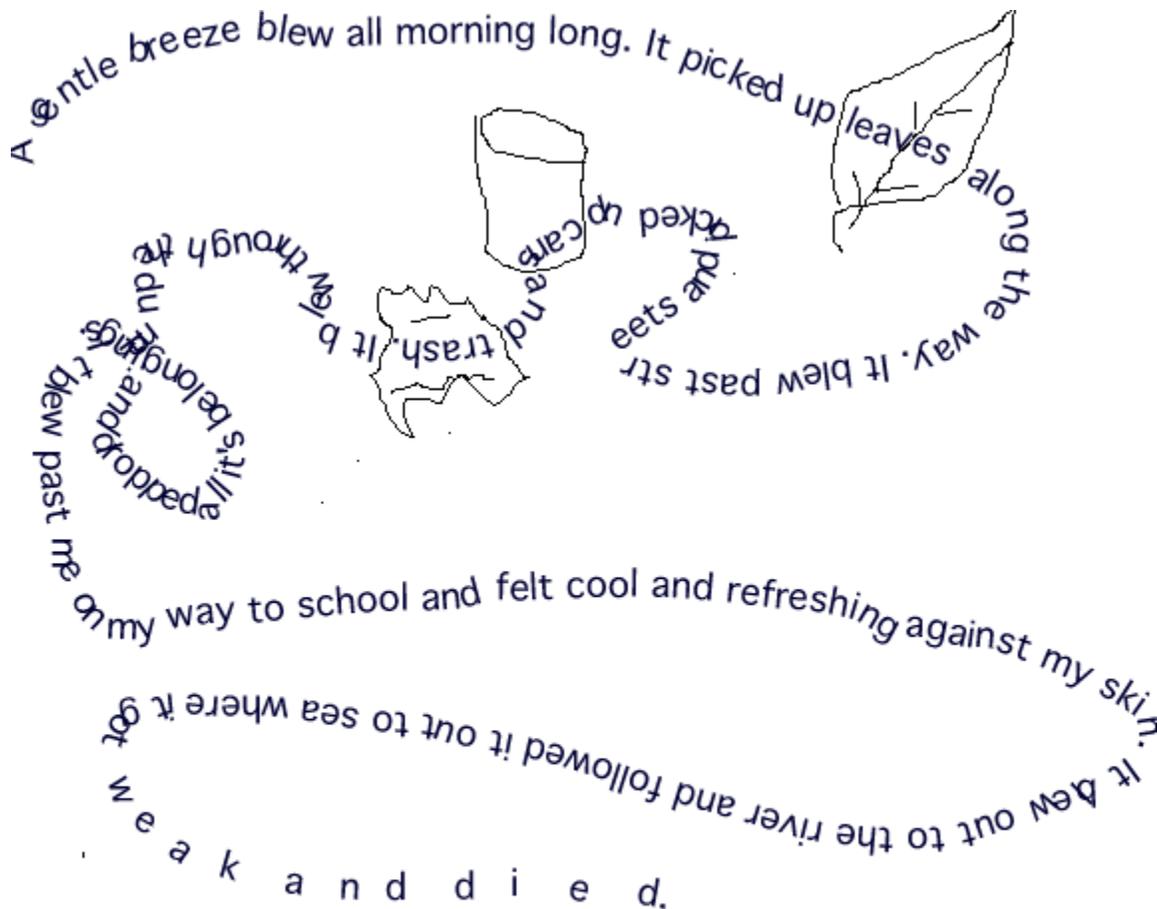
I am (repeat the first line of the
poem)

*Make the poem your own. Change
things around if you need to. Do
NOT skip lines or turn in a partially
completed poem- it will not be
accepted

Concrete Poems

A concrete poem is a poem that forms a picture of the topic or follows the contours of a shape that is suggested by the topic. These can be used effectively with reports in science or social studies. For example, my students have used them in catastrophe reports. Their poems were about a tornado, a hurricane, a flood, and an earthquake.

A GENTLE BREEZE



A CONCRETE POEM by Shannon Lea K.

Text of the poem is typed below.

A gentle breeze blew all morning long. It picked up leaves (written on a leaf) along the way. It blew past streets and picked up cans (written on a can) and trash (written on a piece of trash). It blew through the dump and dropped all its belongings. It blew past me on my way to school and felt cool and refreshing against my skin. It blew out to the river and followed it out to sea where it got weak and died.

Bird # 3

Poe's
 raven told
 him nothing nevermore
 and Vincent's circling
 crows were a threat to destroy
 sunlight. Now I saw a bird, black with a yellow
 beak, orange rubber legs
 pecking to kill the
 lawn, storm bird
 hates with claw,
 evil beak,
 s
 u
 n
 and eye

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Couplets in Poetry.

Using 4-8 couplets (that would be 8-16 lines), create a poem focused on one thing.

Couplets are any two lines working as a unit, whether they comprise a single stanza or are part of a larger stanza. Most couplets rhyme (aa), but they do not have to.

The couplet can be a very lonely stanza, minimalistic. Poems whose content is melancholy or depressing, for example, can make good use of the couplet because--on the page--there is a lot of white space, emptiness, as opposed to writing in quatrains where the stanzas are blocks which limit the white space. As well, because the couplet can be so small, it is a good idea to pack it full of image and emotion, like a hard punch packed in a tight space, very concentrated. . . This doesn't mean the idea and emotion cannot flow between or through couplets, I am only suggesting that each couplet be a powerful, emotionally-intensive unit to the whole.

-- Damon McLaughlin

Example:

I have never loved like I love you
 You could never stay true

I have never hated like I hate her
 She took your love under her power

You have never hated like you hate him
 I saw through you and your little whim

We can never love like we loved before
 You closed that when you opened the wrong door.

Spine Poem

Directions:

Take the title of your favorite book (or movie or song) that **is 5 words (or more) long** and use each of the words as the beginning of a line in your instant poem. For example, use the instant poetry form below to make a spine poem using the book title, **Where the Wild Things Are**. The sample is for the book **The Old Man and the Sea**.

Where do I go when I need
someone to talk to?
The only place I can think of is a
Wild forest filled with creatures
and
Things that bring me peace
because they
Are all in my imagination

The mermaid lived in an
old boat under the waves, where
no
man swam, only dolphins
and giant squid. She often
watched
the waves roll and sang haunting
sea chanties all night long.

Life Lessons

Line 1 I'm learning to
Line 2 And I'm learning to
Line 3 And I'm learning to
Line 4 Not _____ , when I
Line 5 And I'm learning not to
Line 6 And I'm learning not to
Line 7 And I'm learning (though it sometimes really hurts me)
Line 8 Not to
Line 9 And I'm learning to
Line 10 When I
Line 11 And I'm learning that it's much
Line 12 Much easier to be

Sample: **Learning**

I'm learning to say thank you.
And I'm learning to say please.
And I'm learning to use Kleenex,
Not my sweater, when I sneeze.
And I'm learning not to dribble.
And I'm learning not to slurp.
And I'm learning (though it sometimes really hurts me)
Not to burp.
And I'm learning to chew softer
When I eat corn on the cob.
And I'm learning that it's much
Much easier to be a slob.

Color My World

Line 1

Name a color

Lines 2-4

Name 3 things that are that color

Lines 5-7

Name 3 things that sound like that color

Lines 8-10

Name 3 things that taste like that color

Lines 11-13

Name 3 things that feel like that color

Line 14

What can that color do?

Sample:

Purple
 a bruise on your leg,
 bunches of grapes in a bowl,
 a sweater that goes great with black,
 the sound of power,
 fruit juice poured into a glass
 a school bell ringing, ringing
 Grandma's rhubarb pie.
 cold medicine served up on a
 tablespoon
 squishy cough drops,
 velvet covered cushions
 pointy tip pentel markers,
 the sky before lightning starts
 Purple can take you for a sweet ride.

Hold On

Line 1: Hold on

Line 2: Hold on to

Line 3: Even if

Line 4: Hold on to

Line 5: Even if

Line 6: Hold on to

Line 7: Even if

Line 8: Hold on to

Line 9: Even if

Line 10: Hold on to

Line 11: Even when

Sample:

Hopi Prayer
 Hold on to what is good
 Even if it's a handful of earth.
 Hold on to what you believe
 Even if it's a tree that stands by
 itself.
 Hold on to what you must do
 Even if it's a long way from here
 Hold on to your life
 Even if it's easier to let go
 Hold on to my hand
 Even when I've gone away from you.

Write a List Poem

Directions:

Some of the most interesting poems are nothing more than lists of things. Start by thinking of an interesting place in your house that has an unusual assortment of things in it to write about. Consider one of these suggestions (What's on the top shelf of my closet? What's under my bed? What's in corner of the basement? What's in the pocket of my winter coat? What's in that old box in the garage? What's in the kitchen junk drawer?) or come up with one of your own. Make that your opening line. The rest of the poem is just a list of the items you find there.

Method:

Line 1 What's in the name the place
 Line 2 name and describe item one
 Line 3 name and describe item two
 Line 4 name and describe item three
 Line 5 name and describe item four
 Line 6 name and describe item five
 Line 7 name and describe item six
 Line 8 name and describe item seven
 Line 9 name and describe item eight

Sample:

What's in the kitchen junk drawer
 One bag of AA batteries from 1984
 A Scotch tape dispenser that doesn't
 Pieces of curly, dried out contact paper
 Twisty ties that never will again
 Stained Domino's Pizza menus
 Expired coupons and old Acme receipts
 Sticky pennies
 Dusty tic tacs melted onto a paper clip

Septet Poem

Line 1: three syllables
 Line 2: five syllables
 Line 3: seven syllables
 Line 4: nine syllables
 Line 5: seven syllables
 Line 6: five syllables
 Line 7: three syllables

Sample:
 Computer
 Sleek and black and fast
 Open Internet highway
 Shrinks the world to a very small
 place
 Point and click and point and
 click
 The site fills the screen
 Home online

Some of My Best Friends are Metaphors Poem

Directions:

Think of a friend, someone who you know very well. Try to write down a list of ten objects that remind you of your friend. Now try to turn the list into a poem. This strategy could also lead to an instant poem about a member of your family, a teacher or even one of your pets.

Method: Choose a **she** or a **he**

Samples:

She is Calico Corners and country kitchens
 She is the smelly soap store
 She is a summer stroll on the boardwalk
 She is the bash at Sym's
 She is a convertible with the top down
 She is a gold bracelet that shines
 She is an autumn wreath on the front door
 She is fabric by the yard
 She is a framed watercolor painting
 She is my best friend

Best Friend

She is an old tree trunk where we hide our secret notes
 She is penny chews bought from the old lady's penny tray
 She is sardines and cake for tea on Wednesdays
 She is her mum, still very tall to my small
 She is dancing classes on Saturday mornings
 when we can't go out to play
 She is Dandy the beagle who we walk by the river
 She is funny extra teeth that will have to come out before long
 She is a window full of jewels in her dad's shop near the cathedral
 She is my best friend

Tanka Poem

Line 1: five syllables
 Line 2: seven syllables
 Line 3: five syllables
 Line 4: seven syllables
 Line 5: seven syllables

Sample:

Friday afternoon
 Blue screen of death server crash
 Precious data gone
 Do it over and over
 Never forget to back up

Wishes and Fears

Format:

I am afraid of
 I am afraid of
 I am afraid that
 I am afraid that
 I am even afraid

I am afraid of
 I am afraid of
 I am afraid that
 I am afraid that
 I am even afraid

I want
 I want
 I want
 I want
 I even want

I want
 I want
 I want
 I want
 And I want
 Most of all

Sample:

I am afraid of spiders
 I am afraid of lightning strikes
 I am afraid that the milk has gone bad
 I am afraid that the well will run dry
 I am even afraid I might show up ten
 minutes late

I am afraid of final exams
 I am afraid of making speeches
 I am afraid that my math may be wrong
 I am afraid that I'll say a bad word
 I am even afraid of the dark

I want friends who smile back
 I want fresh fruits and vegetables
 I want fewer reruns on summer TV
 I want 50% off sales
 I even want to read books with happy
 endings

I want to laugh
 I want to sing
 I want to dance
 I want to get the joke
 And I want to be here
 Most of all

Writer's Affirmation Poem

I am
 I value
 I write
 I trust
 I honor
 I give voice to
 I give voice to
 I am
 I make
 I hold
 I am
 I make

Sample:
 I am creative
 I value the artist in me
 I write what's in my heart and head
 I trust the nature of my truth
 I honor my kind audience
 I give voice to what haunts
 I give voice to what heals
 I am open to inspiration
 I make a place for creative
 expression
 I hold the outcome in high esteem
 I am safe writing on the page
 I make my home a place to write

Bio-Poem

Method:
 Line 1: I wish I
 Line 2: Like
 Line 3: And I dream
 Line 4: I am
 Line 5: I used to
 Line 6: But now I
 Line 7: I seem to
 Line 8: But I'm really

Sample:
 I wish I could sing
 Like Sheryl Crow
 And I dream sad story songs
 I am hitting high notes
 I used to softly hum along
 But now I've found her voice in
 mine
 I seem to be a mimic
 But I'm really uniquely me

I Don't Understand...

Method:
 I don't understand
 why
 why
 why

But most of all
 why
 why
 why

What I understand most is
 why
 why
 why

Sample: I don't understand
 why people are so picky
 why families can't just let it be
 why cats like watching reality TV

But most of all
 why people just don't think
 why families bicker year after year
 why cats stretch 'til their tongues
 peek out pink

What I understand is
 why bulbs bloom
 why the sun sets
 why fireflies burn yellow-white light

I Used To

Line 1 - I used to
Line 2 - But now I
Line 3 - I always
Line 4 - But I never
Line 5 - I once
Line 6 - But now I
Line 7 - If I could
Line 8 - I would
Line 9 - I never
Line 10 - But I might
Line 11 - I can't
Line 12 - But I can
Line 13 - I won't
Line 14 - But I might
Line 15 - I used to
Line 16 - But now I

Sample:

I used to think that summers stretched slow and lazy for a year
But now I know better
I always thought "school one year, summer one year"
But I never counted off the days on my fingers
I once felt hours stretch long and easy
But now I hear a panicky tick-tock
If I could step into a time machine
I would go back and reset the clock
I never gave it a thought before
But I might seriously consider it now
I can't turn life into a sci-fi movie
But I can gobble up every day 'til I'm filled up happy
I won't ever be 16 again
But I might be a teenager at heart
I used to think that summers stretched slow and lazy for a year
But now I know better

CHECKLIST – make sure every item on your checklist is complete before submitting your poetry packet on **NOVEMBER 21st**

- I have 20 poems of the various types specified
- I have 5 illustrations
- All poems have a title
- Each poem is labeled with its type
- All poetry is written on typing paper
- All poetry is typed or written NEATLY in blue or black ink
- I have a cover with a booklet title, my name, instructor, class, date and an illustration.
- All work is my own