

# POETIC FORMS

Form refers to characteristics of the lines and stanzas of a poem. These characteristics include metre, rhyme, and logical structure.

## FREE VERSE

- no rhyme scheme
- no formal metrical pattern
- may be rhythmical or follow a loose pattern of metre
- may purposely defy symmetry for effect

## FORMAL POETRY

- uses the pleasure of symmetry
- set metrical patterns
- set numbers of lines
- tight rhyme schemes
- logical structures



### PROSE POETRY

- no line breaks
- no rhyme scheme
- no metrical pattern

### BLANK VERSE

- no rhyme scheme
- does follow a set metrical pattern

### HAIKU

- set number of syllables
- set number of lines
- no rhyme scheme

### SONNET

- interlocking rhyme scheme
- set number of lines per stanza
- set metrical pattern
- logical sequence followed

### OTHER FORMAL EXAMPLES

villanelle (uses only 2 rhyme sounds)  
quatrain (stanza of 4 lines with set rhyme scheme)  
cinquain (5 lines with specific syllable counts in each)

### CHARACTERISTICS

- no rhyme scheme
- no formal metrical pattern
- lines are determined by poet's sense of wholeness

### CHARACTERISTICS

- rhyme schemes
- line lengths determined by metre
- formal metrical patterns