

Styles of Poetry and Poetic Terms

Haiku – a 17-syllable, delicate, unrhymed Japanese verse, usually about nature;

Haiku poems consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a **Haiku** have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The lines rarely rhyme. Because Haikus are such short poems, they are usually written about things that are recognizable to the reader.

Limerick– a 5-line, rhymed, rhythmic verse, usually humorous; with a rhyme scheme of *aa bb a*

Ballad- a songlike narrative poem, usually featuring rhyme, rhythm, and refrain;

Some ballads consist of [quatrains](#) and others consist of [couplets](#).

- Tell a Story - They generally tell a story in a very direct manner, and they do not have to be about love at all.
- Use Imagery - Ballads often use vivid and expressive imagery in a detached manner to relay the tale.
- Put to Music - A prominent characteristic of ballads is that they can often easily be put to music.

Free Verse – poetry with neither regular meter nor rhyme scheme

Couplet– a pair of rhyming lines; and

Quatrain– a stanza containing four lines

rhyme – recurring identical or similar final word sounds within or at the ends of lines of verse;

rhythm – the recurring pattern of strong and weak syllabic stresses;

meter – a fixed pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in lines of fixed length to create **rhythm**;

repetition – repeated use of sounds, words, or ideas for effect and emphasis;

alliteration – repetition of initial sounds, e.g., picked a peck of pickled peppers;

onomatopoeia – the use of a word whose sound suggests its meaning,