



How to...

FUN FACT

The longest poem in the world is an Indian poem called the Mahābhārata. It is 1.8 million words long.



Write your own poetry

Express your thoughts and feelings in an imaginative style.

Poetry is a creative way to express your ideas and views in words. Many writers enjoy poetry because there are no real rules to writing a poem. Even so, there are some useful guidelines that can help you write poetry. Here's how to get started.

Keep reading

The best way to become a better writer is to be a reader first. Reading poets' work can help you explore what kind of poetry you might like to write.

Ask a teacher for recommendations, or visit your local library and ask a librarian to guide you to the poetry section. Some books about poetry to check out include *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George, *Honeybee* by Naomi Shihab Nye, and *Soccerverse: Poems About Soccer* by Elizabeth Steinglass.

Pick a subject

When thinking about what to write, you can start by observing what's around you. You could also spend some time thinking about what you love. It can be anything from a sport you're passionate about to a memorable place you've visited. You can also draw

inspiration from ideas and subjects that matter to you, such as animal rescue or protecting the planet.

Consider different types of poetry

Common styles are rhyming, free verse, and haiku. (See more about these types at right.) With rhyming, you can make the first line rhyme with the second, the third line rhyme with the fourth, and so on. With free verse, you can rhyme or not rhyme at all.



Find inspiration all around.

Start writing

Keep a small notebook or a note on your device dedicated to jotting down your ideas. Write down anything that strikes you, from colors to smells to sounds. From there, you can start writing your poem. Once you have a draft ready, you can put it away for a day. Then read your poem again and make any edits until you're happy with it.

Share it with someone

After you finish your poem, read it to a family member, a teacher, or even your pet. Saying a poem out loud can bring it to life. (We'd love to read your poem! Have an adult send it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com.)

3 types of poems



Rhyming A poem that rhymes uses similar sounds in words (for example, "cat" and "sat"). The most common rhyming poem rhymes words at the end of a line of verse.

Free verse doesn't have a typical structure. For example, instead of rhyming, lines of free verse can more closely resemble the rhythms of everyday speech.

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry. The first and third lines of a haiku have five syllables, and the middle line has seven syllables. (A syllable is a single sound of a word. For instance, "reading" contains two syllables: *read* and *ing*.)