

Types of Poetry

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1. **Descriptive Poetry:** Poems which describe people or experiences, scenes or objects, e. g. Shakespeare's "Winter".
2. **Reflective Poetry:** Thoughtful poems often containing a great deal of description which the poet comments on or from which he draws conclusions like Rupert Brooke's "The Dead" and Yeats's "An Irish Man Foresees his Death"
3. **Narrative Poetry:** Poems which tell a story. They tend to be longer than other types of poetry, but it is comparatively easy to recognize the poet's intention, like Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner" and the anonymous poem "Lord Randel", and like this poem:

There was a young lady of Niger
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside
And the smile on the face of the tiger.

4. **Lyrical Poetry:** short non-narrative poems that deal with personal feelings, moods and emotions and can be adapted to music and sung, like William Blake's "O Rose" and Shelley's "To..."
5. **Didactic Poetry:** Poems that intend to teach and give a lesson, like Alexander Pope's *Essay on Criticism*.
6. **Epic Poetry:** The epic is a long narrative poem written in an elevated language and dealing with wars, kings, supernatural elements such as gods and demi-gods like *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf* and *Gilgamesh Epic*.
7. **Dramatic Poetry:** Plays written in verse instead of prose such as Shakespeare's plays.
8. **Documentary Poetry:** is a new type of poetry which emerged in the late twentieth century and flourished in the early twenty-first century. Documentary poetry draws its material from reality and from non-literary materials such as newspaper articles, documents, images, videos, historical events, hospital records and a lot of other materials. It aims at

disclosing and revealing hidden truth to the readers, giving information with the purpose of social or political change, such as Amiri Baraka's "Somebody Blew up America".

Some Forms of Poetry:

1. The Sonnet: An iambic pentameter poem in fourteen lines which follows a very strict rhyme pattern. The sonnet is of three main kinds:

A. The Petrarchan (Italian) Sonnet: It is divided into two main parts: The octave (the first eight lines) and the sestet (the last six lines). The octave is rhymed a-b-b-a-a-b-b-a- and the sestet c-d-e-c-d-e- or c-d-c-d-c-d- for example John Keats's "On the Grasshopper and the Cricket"

B. The Shakespearean (English) Sonnet: It consists of three quatrains and a couplet. The poet presents his subject in the three quatrains and gives the conclusion in the last couplet. The rhyme scheme of this sonnet is usually a-b-a-b-c-d-c-d-e-f-e-f-g-g- for example Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18".

C. The Miltonic Sonnet: It has the same rhyme scheme of the Italian sonnet but there is no break in thought between the octave and the sestet, such as Milton's sonnet "On His Blindness".

2. The Lyric. A short non-narrative poem that deals with personal feelings and emotions and can be adapted to music and sung.

3. The Ballad can be divided into two kinds:

- a. **Folk or traditional ballad.** This kind is anonymous and it was transmitted orally from singer to singer by word of mouth which means that it belongs to the oral tradition., for examples " Chevy Chase", "The Wife of Usher's Well", and "Sir Patrick Spens".
- b. **Literary ballad:** This kind is written by a known poet in imitation of the folk ballad, like John Keats's "La Belle Dame Sans Merci"

Characteristics of Ballad

Both kinds of ballad share some features that can be summarized as the following:

1. They start abruptly.
2. Their language is simple.
3. The story is told through dialogue and action.
4. The theme of ballad is mostly tragic although there are comic ballads as well.
5. They often contain refrain.
6. They deal with a single story and episode.
7. There is hardly any detail of surrounding.
8. They include a strong dramatic element.
9. The narration is intense and immediate.
10. The narrator is impersonal.
11. They include simple imagery.
12. The events that lead to the crisis are related swiftly.

4. The Ode: A poem of uniform stanzas which is intended to be sung and is written to glorify nature, national events or great persons.

5. Blank verse: Iambic pentametre verse without rhyme, like Shakespeare's plays.

6. Free Verse: A pattern of verse structure without metre and usually without rhyme, e. g. Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*.