

Poems About Yourself

“I Am” Poems

1st Stanza

I am **(two special characteristics you have)**
I wonder **(something you are actually curious about)**
I hear **(an imaginary sound)**
I see **(an imaginary sight)**
I want **(an actual desire)**
I am **(the first line of the poem is repeated)**

Stanza 2

I pretend **(something you really pretend to do)**
I feel **(a feeling about something imaginary)**
I touch **(something you imagine you touch)**
I worry **(a worry that is real to you)**
I cry **(something that makes you very sad)**
I am **(the first line of the poem is repeated)**

Stanza 3

I understand **(something you know is true)**
I say **(something you believe in)**
I dream **(a dream you actually have)**
I try **(something you make an effort to do)**
I hope **(something you really hope for)**
I am **(the first line of the poem is repeated)**

Example:

I AM

I am the wine and the future
I wonder how many ripples I will have
to swim
I hear the trickle of time in a bitter bottle
I see the translucent red drain from the
wine
I want the sweet satin liquid to stain my
tongue
I am the wine and the future.

I pretend to entertain the glowing embers
I feel the dew that sours the grapes
I touch the vine that grows new life
I worry the drunkard may speak the truth
I cry the dewdrop tears on the winery
walls
I am the wine and the future.

I understand the dust on the bottle
I say it only makes it sweeter with time
I dream the sponge cork may never be
replaced by lips
I try to glimmer the crack in my glass
container
I hope the sun-faded label never creases
for lost identity
I am the wine and the future.

--Katie Reilly (Grade 10)

Someday Poems:

Begin each line with the word *Someday...* and complete it with a wish you have. Make the first two or three lines say something about your everyday wishes and slowly move away from yourself to the world in general. You may end the poem with the word *Someday....*

Example:

SOMEDAY...
Someday I will play the guitar
Someday I will have a job
Someday I will get married
Someday I will have kids
Someday I will be rich
Someday I will be noticed
---Melissa Manor (Grade 10)

One Window Is All I Need... Poems:

Begin your poem with the line *One window is all I need...*, and continue to write about this imaginary window in a personal way.

Examples:

ONE WINDOW IS ALL I NEED

One window is all I need
To see what lies ahead for me
To lose myself in love
For a connection to my inner world
To see myself for who I am
And be able to make changes.
---Tierra Jones (Grade 10)

ONE WINDOW IS ALL I NEED...

to see the world
to reveal myself
to imagine adventures
to return to myself
and live.
---Alex Buffington (Grade 10)

Haiku

Most popular definition, but there is more to haiku than meets the eye:

Haiku (also called nature or seasonal haiku) is an unrhymed Japanese verse consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables (**5, 7, 5**) or 17 syllables in all. Haiku is usually written in the present tense and focuses on nature (seasons).

The 5/7/5 rule was made up for school children to understand and learn this type of poetry.

Example #1:

Pink cherry blossoms
Cast shimmering reflections
On seas of Japan

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Example #2:

salt-waves caress sand
tickling my toes and heart
in their short-spun wake

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Example #3:

warm soup in a bowl
letters of the alphabet
hang on the teaspoon

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Limerick

A Limerick is a rhymed humorous or nonsense poem of five lines which originated in Limerick, Ireland.

The Limerick has a set rhyme scheme of : **a-a-b-b-a** with a syllable structure of: **9-9-6-6-9**.

The rhythm of the poem should go as follows:

Lines 1, 2, 5: weak, weak, STRONG, weak, weak, STRONG, weak, weak, STRONG, weak, weak

Lines 3, 4: weak, weak, STRONG, weak, weak, STRONG, weak, weak

This is the most commonly heard first line of a limerick: "There once was a man from Nantucket."

Example:

I am a pretty little flower
I am endowed with lots of power
when you pick me in green
I'll bite you 'cause I'm mean
And live to see another hour.

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Shape Poetry

Shape is one of the main things that separate prose and poetry. Poetry can take on many formats, but one of the most inventive forms is for the poem to take on the shape of its subject. Therefore, if the subject of your poem were of a flower, then the poem would be shaped like a flower. If it were of a fish, then the poem would take on the shape of a fish.

><<<*>

Shape and Concrete Poetry go hand-in-hand; however, Concrete or Visual Poetry don't have to take on the particular shape of the poem's subject, but rather the wording in the poem can enhance the effect of the words such as in this line:

an angel tumbling
d
o
w
n
to earth . . .

Designing your own shape poem can be simple and fun, but try not to pick anything that would be too difficult. You can map out or draw your shape first, and then import the text of your poem into your shape.

Example #1:

“Birth of a Triangle”

mama and papa and baby make three,
reaching sides of a three-sided tree.
oedipal winds rustle from leaves;
triangular shapes converting
dissimilarity into peeves.
straight lines connect
the corners turned;
mirrored sight
un-burned;
buried
am
i

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Example #2:

“My Body”

my
body
is
a
walking representation
the outward visual caption
of what it means
to be
me
from the
outside
looking
in
at times I hide
from you but mostly
what you see is
what you will get

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Cinquain

Cinquain is a short, usually unrhymed poem consisting of twenty-two syllables distributed as **2, 4, 6, 8, 2, in five lines**. It was developed by the Imagist poet, Adelaide Crapsey.

Another form, sometimes used by school teachers to teach grammar, is as follows:

Line 1: Noun

Line 2: Description of Noun

Line 3: Action

Line 4: Feeling or Effect

Line 5: Synonym of the initial noun.

Example:

angels

kind beyond words

they protect and forgive

and make feelings of blissfulness

cherebum

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Ode

An Ode is a poem praising and glorifying a person, place or thing.

Example #1:

“An Ode To Dreamers”

When dreamers dream
And lovers love
Do they receive their visions
From heaven above?
Or do they originate
Where all things start
Within our minds
Within our hearts?
I know not all
But what I do know is this
You cannot build a Kingdom
Upon a flimsy wish
So believe in your dreams
Follow them blind
Lest you loose them all,
To the hands of time.

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Example #2:

“Ode To A Butterfly”

Oh! the butterfly
he flutters all day,
he roams the skies
with some delay.

He alights on trees, fences
and roses,
to whatever attracts his fancy
he will do his poses.

He's up, he's down
he dances with the breeze,
he comes, he goes
and does it with ease.

As I watch him
in pure delight,
I begin to wonder
if he knows his own plight.

For soon spring turns into summer
then summer flies quickly by,
the sun setting early
into a darkening sky.

The butterfly is gone now
replaced by snow,
but he will be back again
to put on his beautiful show.

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Quatrain

A Quatrain is a poem consisting of four lines of verse with a specific rhyming scheme.

A few examples of a quatrain rhyming scheme are as follows:

- #1) abab
- #2) abba -- envelope rhyme
- #3) aabb
- #4) aaba, bbcb, ccdc, dddd -- chain rhyme

Example:

“Lord of Deceit”

Trapped within a haze of fear,
The Lord of Lies does appear.
Clouded by so much that’s wrong,
Truth gets twisted by his song.

Turning love and joy to pain,
Hidden by the falling rain.
Tragedy becomes the norm
When hate and fear begin to form.

Hurtful lies tear lives apart
And cause more harm to a heart.
Once the pain and hate begin,
Nothing is the same again.

Once the lie has been revealed,
Secrets are no more concealed.
Then the healing can undo
What he has done unto you.

Once the healing has begun,
Love and happiness have won.
With the truth, you can defeat
The spiteful Lord of Deceit.

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Free Verse

Free Verse is an irregular form of poetry in which the content free of traditional rules of versification (freedom from fixed meter or rhyme).

In moving from line to line, the poet's main consideration is where to insert line breaks. Some ways of doing this include breaking the line where there is a natural pause or at a point of suspense for the reader.

Following the direction of Walt Whitman, Ezra Pound and T.S.Eliot, many modern day poets use this particular form of expression.

Example:

“Ode to Job”

Job came down
in a
woosh, outstretched
and gliding into the horizon.
Blue shadowed
flight
arrested by
the beckoning marsh.
His greatness bears
much
yet not
the anguish of ancient
prophecy.
Situating grievances weigh
feathery
on this long,
strong back. Unconscious
emotion
numbs while
time drifts out
another
sun salted
day.

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Song

A Song is an expression of a poet's personal emotions, meant to be sung. Lyrics in a song contain verses (lines that make up a song; sung poem) and a chorus (a repeating verse in a song (refrain)).

Example:

“Empty Wishing Well”

You say your eyes are a wishing well
And the future you can tell
You asked me what is my sign
I said Scorpio was mine
You told me that astrology
Had to do with cosmic harmony
You read divining signs to see what's up
And the tea leaves in your cup

(Chorus)

But If you're so psychic, why couldn't
you tell?
Where was your warning when you
fell...
Into your empty wishing well

You crossed the gypsies palm with gold
Then you had her read me the Tarot
I watched you cast the rune stones
And then you tossed the bones
You looked into your crystal ball
Then you turned over the eight-ball
You told me that your clairvoyance
Is good for problem avoidance

(Chorus)

But If you're so psychic, why couldn't
you tell?
Where was your warning when you
fell...
Into your empty wishing well?

You say your souls like a lotus flower
And you believe in pyramid power
You found your way through the
shaman's drum

And through the words of the chosen
one
All your past lives you say you can see
But your present life's a mystery
Aren't you afraid you'll fade
Into a Mercury retrograde?

(Chorus)

But If you're so psychic, why couldn't
you tell?
Where was your warning when you
fell...
Into your empty wishing well

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Writing a Rap Song

Raps are talk songs. They are not sung; they are spoken. They have a very heavy beat and a lot of rhyme. Behind the speaker of a rap, there might be original music, "scratching" sounds, and parts of other peoples' songs.

To write your own rap, begin with your topic. You have to know enough about your topic to rap about it. I usually make it school, friends or family and always **MUST** be in a positive sense.

Once you learn all about your topic you're ready to rap.

Tell the whole story of your ballot topic in rhyme. Most raps rhyme in 'couplets.'" That means lines rhyme two at a time. Lines one and two rhyme with each other, but not with the other lines. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other, but not with the other lines. And so on. The two lines that rhyme together are a "Couplet."

Begin your lyrics with a line that has a strong beat or rhythm. Rhyme the next line with the first. Try to repeat the same rhythm in the second line, too. Then begin a new rhyme with the third line. The fourth line should rhyme with the third line. Keep repeating this rhyming pattern.

The beat can be different in different lines. Some lines can be short; others, long. You might want to have a "refrain" in your lyrics. A refrain is a group of lines that remain the same and are repeated throughout the song.

List Poems

There are so many things that can be written about in lists, that sometimes we cannot think of a thing to write. To help, some ideas for lists are below.

Lists can be either rhyming or not. It is up to you to decide which style you use.

Ideas for List Poems

The Sources of:

grayness
stiffness
softness
redness
squeaks
cold
sights

Things That:

ring
light
you find in the grocery
hear in your house
smell in the school
are round/square
are red/blue/green/black

Things:

to do waiting for the bus
to do trying to fall asleep
you should have done
you should not have done
that make you feel tall
that make you feel small
that you tell your mother

Examples:

THINGS KIDS SAY WHEN THEY WANT TO GET OUT TO PLAY

--I did all my homework.
--I picked up my toys.
--I emptied the trash.
--My bed is made. No, there are no lumps.
--I ate all my vegetables.
--But everyone else is.
--Bobby's mom doesn't make him.
--But, Mom.
--No, my dirty clothes aren't under the bed.
--Yes, Mom, I'm sure.
--Yeah, I'll be careful.. No, I won't poke an eye out.
--Oh, please!
---Steve Schlatter (Grade 10)

CAN YOU IMAGINE...

A city without violence
This classroom in silence

Basketball without a ball
Reno without a mall

Ducks wearing lipstick
No barbecue at a picnic

Sky without stars
Jail with no bars

Thrusdays without New York
Undercover
Being born without having a mother

The Lakers after Shaq
Harlem without crack

Pepsi without caffeine
Every night having the same dream?
---Tierra Jones (Grade 10)

Sonnet

A Sonnet is a poem consisting of 14 lines (iambic pentameter) with a particular rhyming scheme:

Examples of a rhyming scheme:

- #1) abab cdcd efef gg
- #2) abba cddc effe gg
- #3) abba abba cdcd cd

A Shakespearean (English) sonnet has three quatrains and a couplet, and rhymes **abab cdcd efef gg**.

An Italian sonnet is composed of an octave, rhyming **abbaabba**, and a sestet, rhyming **cdecde or cdcdcd**, or in some variant pattern, but with no closing couplet.

Usually, English and Italian Sonnets have 10 syllables per line, but Italian Sonnets can also have 11 syllables per line.

Example #1:

Sonnet of Demeter--Italian Sonnet

Oh the pirate stars, they have no mercy!
Masquerading as hope they tell their lies;
Only the young can hear their lullabies.
But I am barren and I am thirsty
Since she has gone. No hope is there for me.
I will roam and curse this earth and these
skies--
Death from life which Zeus sovereign
denies.
My heart's ill shall the whole world's illness
be

Till she is returned-- my daughter, my
blood--
From the dark hand of Hades to my care.
With my tears these mortals shall know a
flood
To show Poseidon's realm desert and bare.
No myrtle shall flower, no cypress bud
Till the gods release her...and my despair.

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Example #2:

Sonnet--Italian Sonnet

I set my soul free down the dreamers lane
Thoughts of joyful times bring my mind
aflight
Moons of memories drip so lovely light
Stars above hum a tune to ease my pain
I sail a sea where kings of past did reign
Thoughts buried deep burn in the stars so
bright
To see the legends only I may sight
A life of imagery that pumps in vein

As life is written in a hidden page
I soar among all the things that will fly
I'm always seeking my soul's so lost core
Sooths all of my hate and my painful rage
Sorrow from all my blood dripped tears I cry
Dreams are the peace felt in life times before

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Poetry Resources

All of the definitions and examples came from www.shadowpoetry.com and http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm. **Feel free to visit these sites if you need more ideas.**

Need help rhyming? You can go to <http://www.rhymezone.com/> for assistance. You type in a word and the site will find rhyming words and phrases. This may be useful when writing quatrains.

If you are having problems with different **poetic terms**, visit <http://www.poeticbyway.com/glossary.html> for definitions of words relating to poetry.

This site has links to a lot of different poetry sites:
<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/poetrycollections.html>