**Types and Features of Poetry**

What is poetry? What are its features? Let us learn together!

**Poetry**

**Poetry** is a composition in verse. Poems consist of lines and stanzas that often have **rhyme and rhythm**.

**Three Types of Poetry**

1. **Narrative**

Narrative poems are those that describe or tell stories.

* **Epic** – Talks about heroic exploits. Usually fictional and involves supernatural events.
* **Ballad** – Talks about a single event. Ballads are short and deal with topics such as love, life and death.

1. **Lyric**

Lyric poems express strong thoughts and feelings. These poems are meant to be sung.

* **Sonnet** – Made up of fourteen lines that rhyme
* **Ode** – Talks about praising an individual, event, or an inanimate object
* **Elegy** – Talks about mourning for the dead
* **Folk song** – Talks about the life and culture of people from the past
* **Psalm** – Talks about praising God

1. **Dramatic**

Dramatic poems include characters and conflict. These are designed to be spoken or acted on stage.

* **Tragedy** – Talks about the struggles of the protagonist against insurmountable odds. These poems end with failure and dissatisfaction.
* **Comedy** – Talks about the funny and amusing aspects of life. These poems end happily.
* **Melodrama** – Deals with intense and sad emotion. These poems usually end with a happy ending for the protagonist.
* **Farce** – Deals with satire and exaggerated comedy. Characters and situations are too absurd and ridiculous to be real.

**Features of Poetry**

1. **Form**

Poems have two main forms:

* **Structured** – Has a pattern either in the number of lines, syllables, or rhymes.
* **Free verse** – Does not have any pattern either in the number of lines, syllables, or rhymes.

1. **Speaker**

The speaker is the person who is addressing the reader. This is usually the poet himself.

1. **Sound**

Sound refers to the rhyme, repetition, onomatopoeia, consonance, and assonance of sounds in a poem.

1. **Sensory Images**

These are images that we perceive through our senses. Poets use descriptive words to achieve this.

1. **Situation**

The characters, time, place, and events in a poem.

1. **Theme/Meaning**

This is the underlying idea in the poem.

**Example**:

**The Sea**

**by Natividad Marquez**

*Why does the sea laugh, Mother?*

*As it glints beneath the sun?*

*It is thinking of the joy, my child*

*That it wishes everyone.*

*Why does the sea sob so, Mother?*

*As it breaks on the rocky shore?*

*It recalls the sorrows of the world,*

*And weeps forevermore.*

*Why is the sea so peaceful, Mother?*

*As if it was fast asleep?*

*It would give our tired heart, dearest child*

*The comfort of the deep.*

### ****Explanation****:

The given poem is structured because each stanza has two lines, and the lines end with rhymes. The speakers of the poem are the mother and her child. The sensory images used include the sea breaking the rocky shore and the sea weeping forevermore. The situation is that the mother is with her child by the seashore. The meaning of the poem can be interpreted as the sea's love, joy, and sorrow being similar to the mother's feelings for her child.

**Three Types of Poetry**

* 1. **Narrative**
* Epic
* Ballad
  1. **Lyric**
* Sonnet
* Ode
* Elegy
* Folk song
* Psalm
  1. **Dramatic**
* Tragedy
* Comedy
* Melodrama
* Farce

**Features of Poetry**

1. **Form**

* Structured
* Free verse

**B. Speaker**

**C. Sound**

**D. Sensory Images**

**E. Situation**

**F. Theme/Meaning**

**Quiz**

* 1. It is a composition in verse that often has rhyme and rhythm.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ poetry includes characters and conflict. These are designed to be spoken or acted onstage.
  3. Which of the following are the main forms of poetry?

1. Structured
2. Free verse
3. Speaker
4. Situation
   1. The type and the form of the poem are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Little Sampaguita**

**by Natividad Marquez**

*Little sampaguita*

*With the wondering eye*

*Did a tiny fairy*

*Drop you where you lie?*

*In the witching hour*

*Of the tropic night*

*Did the careless moonbeam*

*Leave you in its fight?*

1. Dramatic and free verse
2. Narrative and structured
3. Narrative and free verse
4. Dramatic and structured
   1. Which of the following types of narrative poetry can detail the quest of a local? Biag ni Lam-ang from Ilocos is an example of this.
   2. Epic
   3. Ballad
   4. Sonnet
   5. Ode
   6. Which of the following types of dramatic poetry deals with satire and exaggerated comedy?
5. Tragedy
6. Farce
7. Comedy
8. Melodrama
   1. Which of the following is not a type of lyric poetry?
9. Folk song
10. Elegy
11. Tragedy
12. Ode
    1. Pia would like to write a poem praising her dog for all its tricks and all the love it gives her and her family. Which of the following types of poetry should she write?
13. Ode
14. Tragedy
15. Sonnet
16. Elegy
    1. Mike is fascinated by poems, but he does not want to write any because he finds it hard to think of words that rhyme that would fit the message of the poem.

Which of the following would be good advice to give Mike?

1. Try writing a free verse poem and expressing your feelings without rhymes.
2. Use a dictionary and a thesaurus to search for words that would rhyme.
3. Find a specific poet you like and just copy his style and words.
4. Just practice writing structured poems and everything will fall into place.
   1. Which of the following is true about the poem below?

*Wedding bells and pleasant smells*

*Blue skies and warm nights*

*Twinkling stars and rushing cars*

*These are just some things that make me feel happy.*

1. The poem makes use of sensory images to convey scenes to the reader.
2. The poem is a comedy and talks about things in life that are amusing.
3. The poem's speaker is a forty-year-old man reminiscing his childhood days.
4. The poem is a structured poem with the same number of syllables in each line.

**Answer Key**

1. poetry, poem
2. dramatic
3. A and B
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. A