

Name _____

Date _____

Genre Features: Poetry

Poetry is a type of literature in which words are carefully chosen and arranged to create certain effects. Poets use **form** to structure their poems, and form refers to how words are arranged on the page.

There are three basic elements of form in poetry:

- **Line:** The line is the main unit of all poems. Poets often experiment with the length of lines to emphasize meaning and create rhythm.
- **Rhythm:** Rhythm is the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line, similar to the rhythmic beats in music.
- **Stanza:** Lines are grouped into stanzas. A stanza often expresses a separate idea or emotion, but it also contributes to the overall meaning of the poem.

1. Read the poem and answer the questions to understand how form can help create an affect in a poem.

The Dance of the Leaves

The leaves twirl and spin,
In the crisp autumn air.
Golden and brown, they begin
A journey without a care.

They drift and glide,
In the wind's gentle embrace.
A fleeting beauty, nature's pride,
An ever-changing, peaceful grace.

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Genre Features: Poetry

1. How long are the lines?

2. Do the lines rhyme?

3. Do the sentences always end at the end of a line?

4. How many lines are in each stanza?

5. How do the rhythm help convey the author's emotions?

**Below are 10 statements about the features of poetry.
Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).**

1. A line in poetry is the main unit of a poem.

2. Rhythm in poetry is completely random and has no pattern.

3. A stanza is a group of lines in a poem.

4. Poets never use line length to emphasize meaning.

5. Every stanza in a poem expresses the exact same idea.

6. Rhythm in poetry is similar to the beats in music.

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Genre Features: Poetry – Answer Key

1. How long are the lines?

Each line is about 8–10 words long.

2. Do the lines rhyme?

Yes, the lines rhyme, such as "air" and "care,"

3. Do the sentences always end at the end of a line?

No, some sentences continue across lines

4. How many lines are in each stanza?

Each stanza has 4 lines, and the poem has 2 stanzas.

5. How do the rhythm help convey the author's emotions?

It conveys the author's admiration for the beauty of autumn.

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T

2. Rhythm in poetry is completely random and has no pattern.

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3. A stanza is a group of lines in a poem.

T

4. Poets never use line length to emphasize meaning.

F

5. Every stanza in a poem expresses the exact same idea.

F

6. Rhythm in poetry is similar to the beats in music.

T