

Name _____

Date _____

Lyric Poem

A **lyric poem** is a short poem in which a single speaker expresses personal thoughts and feelings. Lyric poetry is a broad category that includes traditional forms such as odes and sonnets, as well as free verse, a form that does not use formal structure or rhyme schemes. In fact, in ancient times, lyric poems were created to be sung. Although they aren't sung today, lyric poems do have some elements in common with songs, including:

- a sense of rhythm and melody
- imaginative word choice, or diction
- the creation of a single, unified impression

Read the following lyric poem and answer the questions.

Midnight Storm

The rain taps gently on my window pane,
Like fingers playing music in the night.
My thoughts drift out beyond the falling rain
To memories that flash like lightning bright.

I wrap my blanket tighter round my arms,
As thunder rolls across the distant hills.
The storm outside reflects my heart's alarms,
My racing thoughts that never will be still.

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Lytic Poem

Yet somehow in this midnight symphony,
Of wind and water dancing through the trees,
I find a strange and peaceful harmony
That sets my restless, worried mind at ease.

The storm will pass, as all things surely do,
And morning light will paint the world anew.

1. What makes this a lyric poem? Identify two characteristics.

2. What emotions does the speaker express in this poem?

3. How does the poet use nature imagery to reflect the speaker's feelings?

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Lyric Poem - Answer Key

1. What makes this a lyric poem? Identify two characteristics.

This is a lyric poem because it expresses personal emotions of a single speaker and uses musical qualities like rhythm and rhyme to create a melodic effect.

2. What emotions does the speaker express in this poem?

The speaker expresses anxiety and restlessness ("racing thoughts," "heart's alarms") but also peace and hope ("peaceful harmony," "morning light will paint the world anew").

3. How does the poet use nature imagery to reflect the speaker's feelings?

The storm serves as a metaphor for the speaker's emotional state. Thunder represents troubled thoughts, while rain creates soothing music. The storm passing mirrors the speaker's hope that their troubled feelings will also pass.