



Poetry Play

Challenge: Flex your creative muscles. 🧠💪 Experiment with different poetic forms while either focusing on or including a Membean word (*or words*) in your work. Here are some poetic forms to help you get started.

Antonym Diamante

These diamond-shaped poems are seven lines long and require the following format:

Noun
Adjective, Adjective
Verb, Verb, Verb
Noun, Noun-(Transition)-Noun, Noun
Verb, Verb, Verb
Adjective, Adjective
Noun

How to write one:

1. Choose the noun your poem will begin with, and decide what your poem will generally be about.
2. Choose the noun your poem will end with. It should have the opposite meaning of the noun you start with.
3. Write your transition line (*fourth line*). The first two nouns should connect to the first line of the poem, and the last two nouns should connect to the last line of the poem.
4. Fill in the other lines, playing with how to cleverly flip the mood, tone, and meaning.

Limerick

Limericks are five lines long, have a specific rhythm, follow an AABBA rhyme scheme, and are meant to be funny. Here's an example:

There was a young student on Membean
Who studied all day with no sunscreen.
They were in such a stupor
Their sunburn was super,
But their learning that day was pristine.

How to write one:

1. The first line usually ends with the name of a place or person and has three stressed syllables.
2. The second and fifth lines also need three stressed syllables and should rhyme with the first line.
3. The third and fourth lines have two stressed syllables and are a couplet (*rhyme together*).
4. Read your poem aloud to see if the rhythm and rhyme scheme work.
5. Consider the tone of your limerick. Is it silly enough?

Acrostic

An acrostic poem is one in which the main theme or idea of the poem is written vertically, and each letter of that word begins each line in the poem. You can use a Membean word as the base, sprinkle them throughout, or both. Here is an example using the word **aggrandize**:

*Alphabetically I slam, use my
Gift of gab, the
Gadgetry of grad from
Rote verse a la rhythmic stanz.
A domineering wordsmith, the
Number one source of word myths.
Diction untouchable:
I subvert this, my
Zenith a broad width, the
Epitome of excellence.*

How to write one:

1. Choose a word and write it vertically.
2. Begin each line with the starting letter.
3. While acrostic poems don't have to rhyme and are generally free of rules, good acrostic poems use many literary devices such as enjambment, clever line breaks, rhyme, etc.

Haiku

A haiku is a poem with three lines, each with a specific number of syllables. The first two lines can be descriptive of something (*typically about nature*), while the last line is usually an insightful observation or epiphany about the first two lines. Here's an example from Kobayashi Issa:

*A world of dew,
And within every dewdrop
A world of struggle.*

How to write one:

1. Decide what topic you'd like to describe in the first two lines. Keep in mind, haikus often focus on nature.
2. Consider your last line. What observation do you want to make about that topic?
3. The first and third lines must have five syllables. The second line must have seven syllables.
4. Typically the three lines will not rhyme.
5. Be precise with every word! As you write each line, carefully count syllables while paying attention to the impact of your word choices.