

Free Verse

Free Verse simply flows. It does not have a particular pattern. It may have some rhyming phrases or none at all. However, it always expresses an idea or a story or an impression in a rhythmic form.

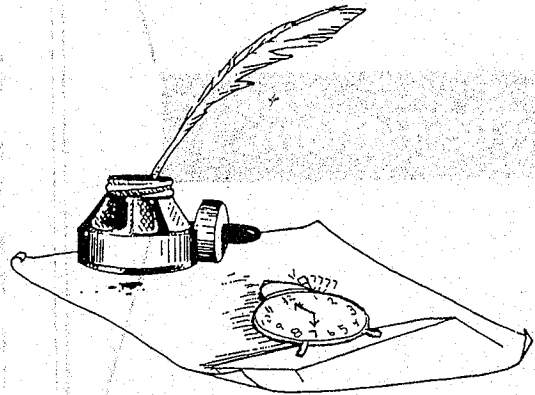
The Pattern

Daybreak
Alarm rings
Mom enters
Sadness comes
I must get up

Joel Walton

In the hustle
and bustle
of a big busy city
I look up and say
Why is it like this?
Am I the only one who cares
Except for the "Big Guy" up there?

Jay Heisey



Suggestions:

Just begin thinking of what you are interested in, what you are happy or sad about, what you are concerned about. What questions do you have about life? What are you mad about? Think of the future and ideas you have, think about the past and see what comes to mind. Try to remember especially good times in your life, especially difficult times. Put those feelings into words.

When writing free verse poetry, be especially concerned with the placement of the words on each line. A very short free verse will probably be placed on two, three, or four lines to emphasize the beauty of the ideas expressed. If the poem is longer, then the lines too will be longer. However, be sure the words are placed so that the writing appears to be a poem and not a short story or simply a paragraph. Free verse depends so much on the careful choice of words or phrases so be ready to reedit until you are pleased with the poem.

Inside — Outside Poetry

Inside — Outside Poetry first describes someone as the person he or she thinks other people might see, focusing on those things which they don't especially like. The second two stanzas then describe the person as the perfect boy or girl of their dreams. The rhyming pattern is ABCB.

Do not write on these!

The Pattern

My inside self and my outside self
Are different as can be

This is a good way to begin.

My outside self wears dumb clothes
And very short is she.
Dumb freckles sprinkled on her nose
With dumb, short curly hair.
And not pretty at all
With no one to care.

This is the description of the outside self.

My inside self is different
You can see

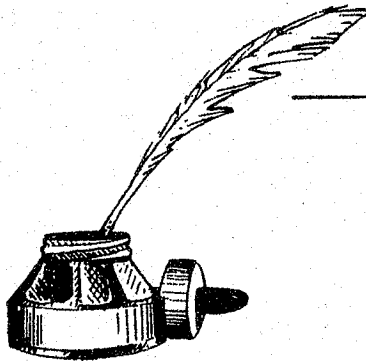
Good example for beginning the first line.

A lovely ballerina
Dancing inside of me.
Lovely blond hair
Swishing everywhere.
As tall as can be,
Her face is soft,
Her hair so light,
Her feet twinkling
As she dances
Out of sight!

Try to end with a surprise, a flare, or a bit of humor.

This is the description of the inside self.

Try to end with a surprise, a flare, or a bit of humor.



Julie Jackson

Suggestions:

You can write about the way you look, your abilities, your life at home or school, your pets, your family, or your future. Try to closely relate the second stanza to the first stanza.

For example, if you have written about the way you look in the first stanza, then you should write about how you look in the second stanza. There should be a contrast of ideas between the first and second stanzas.

Mother's Day Poetry

Mother's Day Poetry (or Father's Day Poetry or Birthday Poetry for someone special) has five stanzas. Each stanza describes a different feeling, or part of the person's life. It concludes with a special wish or final remark. The rhyme pattern is ABCB.

The Pattern

Class set!
Do not write on these!

My mom is really wonderful
She is good to me.
She helps me with my homework
and is as nice as can be.

The person is introduced and described.

Whatever she does,
She does it right.
When I ask her to help
She can because she's bright.

Describe another part of the person's life. Make it personal and true.

I know she gets mad at me
When I don't clean my room.
She goes to the closet
and comes back with the vacuum.

Choose a different viewpoint and write about it.

She always nags on me
To play with my brother
She doesn't understand
He's just a bother.

Add variety! Think of yet another part of the person's life.

My mom she gets real mean
Just like a mother
But that doesn't bother me
Cause I still love her

Finish the poem with words of love!

(H A P P Y M O T H E R ' S D A Y)



Todd Silver

Suggestions:

This poem should have lots of variety. Each phrase may have a different sort of feeling. The phrase can refer to different areas of the person's life, work, hobbies, books, talents, family life, attitudes, values, humorous traits, faults, goals, dreams, habits, favorites, etc.

Lonely Poetry

Lonely Poetry has two stanzas that tell a short story. The first stanza tells where you are. The second stanza tells what happened. The rhyming pattern is ABCB.

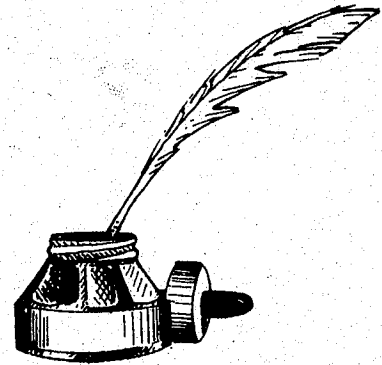
Class set!
Do not write
on these!

Alone

The first day of June
Alone at home.
I watched soap operas
While I let my dog roam.

I heard a screeching noise,
then a dog's bark,
Now I'm very sad
He's buried in the park.

Jeff Webdell



The Pattern

The first day of June

— [This phrase tells when.

Alone at home

— [These words express lonely feelings. Other words may be used: "so sad," "all by myself," "with no one but me," etc.

I watched soap operas
While I let my dog roam.

— [These two lines describe what you did.

I heard a screeching noise,
then a dog's bark,

— [These two lines add more information.

Now I'm very sad
He's buried in the park.

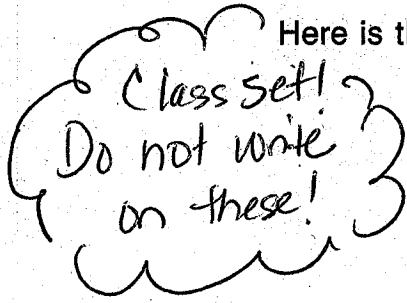
— [These lines tell what happened.

Suggestions:

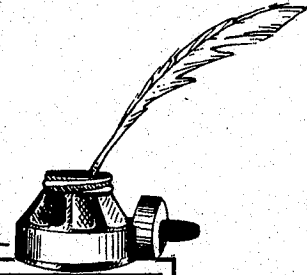
Don't get "stuck" by thinking that you must use the words "alone at home" in the second phrase. The phrase could be "Alone I sat," "Alone I was," or "All alone was I" as well as many other different "lonely" words you can find in a thesaurus.

Color Poetry

Here is the perfect way to make "colorful" comparisons in poetic forms.



The Pattern



Orange is when the sun is setting
White is new basketball netting.

Grey seems to be a bore.
Blue kites make you want to soar.

Red is as fresh as a rose
Yellow sun will burn your nose.

Green are the leaves in the spring.
Gold makes a lovely wedding ring.

Pink is baby brother's cheeks
Purple flowers will bloom in a few weeks.

What are colors to you?

Ryan Crosby

Suggestions:

Color poetry can be written in many different ways. For example: The lines could begin with, "I like blue" followed by "The color of friendship that is true." The lines could begin with "Blue is the sky" followed by a stanza such as "Birds fly there high." Each stanza could be a free verse such as, "Blue eyes of a baby make grown men smile." The rhyming pattern could be ABCB. However you write it, try to make each line special with interesting words, unique ideas, or by the way the words are organized on the page.

This is Mine

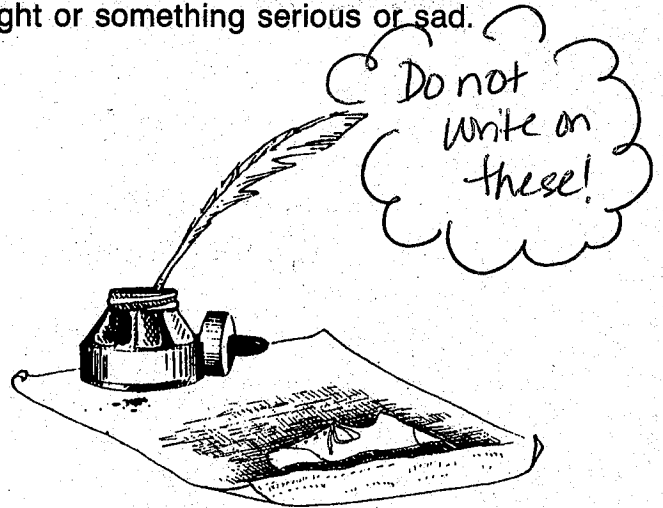
“This is Mine” Poetry names something that is all yours. Then that possession is described. Several stanzas can be written. The last stanza concludes the poem with a bit of humor, a sage statement, a surprising thought or something serious or sad.

These are my sneakers
They're both exactly the same
They are old
And very lame.

They are my sneakers
All tattered and torn
When I look at them
I'm forlorn.

These are my sneakers
I hate them, I do
But in them I could
Outrun you!

Melissa Hawkins



The Pattern

These are my sneakers

This is what belongs to you.

They're both exactly the same.
They are old
And very lame.

These lines describe it.

They are my sneakers

The first line is repeated.

All tattered and torn
When I look at them
I'm forlorn.

More descriptive phrases are written.

These are my sneakers

The first line is repeated.

I hate them, I do
But in them I could
Outrun you!

The last lines add the final touch with a little humor that brings a smile.

Suggestions:

Try varying the moods or the perspective of thinking in each stanza to add interest. Always go back and try to eliminate all excess words. Try to upgrade all descriptive words so that the entire poem is rather like a picture that has lots of colorful details.

Months Poetry

Months Poetry is a series of couplets. Each couplet describes the month or tells something about it.

The Pattern

January, the month with lots of snow.
It's fun for everyone, you know.

February, the month with Valentine's Day.
I will send a card and candy your way.

March is when my mom will be thirty-five.
What a fun month to be alive.

April, the month with April Fools' Day.
And everybody likes it that way.

May is when the flowers burst out.
When we can laugh, and play, and shout.

June is when we get out of school.
When we can go home and swim in the pool.

In July my brother will be thirteen.
We celebrate it with cake and ice cream.

In August I can laugh, and play
football and basketball during the day.

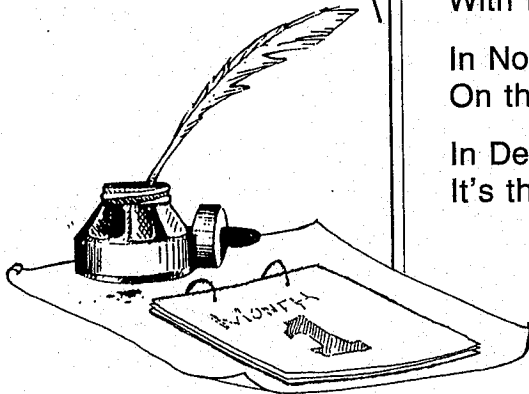
I have my birthday in September.
I never forget, I always remember.

October is spooky costumes on Halloween.
With fun and games, and scary screams.

In November there is Thanksgiving Day.
On the table the turkey will lay.

In December we celebrate Christmas.
It's the best time of year for all of us.

Ben Affleck



Suggestions:

Months Poetry can be personalized to fit family holidays and celebrations. It can be historical, utilizing interesting information found during research. It can be described in colors or moods or changes in nature. It will demand re-editing as attention is given to choosing the most expressive phrases and eliminating unnecessary words.