

# Writing Extras – Mother Goose

## Poetry

### A Poets Tools:

Rhythm  
Tempo  
Rhyme  
Repetition  
Imagination  
Figures of Speech  
Emotion



### Find Poetry in:

Picture Books  
Songs  
Finger plays  
Nursery Rhymes

### Other Children's Poets:

Shel Silverstein  
Roald Dahl  
Judith Viorst  
Paul Fleischman

Most of the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes are poems. This lesson guide briefly covers a few basic poem styles.

**For more detailed learning, visit the websites below.**

[Types of Poems for Kids - Vibrant Teaching](#)

[Get Outstanding Poetry from Kids With 4 Simple Skills - The Classroom Key](#)

[5 Poetry Styles to Engage Readers and Writers - Notes from the Portable \(jessicazannini.com\)](#)

**Or check out these books from your local library.**

*Explore Poetry!* by, Andi Diehn (has great references to Mother Goose Rhymes, and several activities)

*How to Write, Recite and Delight in All Kinds of Poetry* by, Joy N. Hulme and Donna W. Guthrie (textbook-like, a great school guide)

*Finding the Rhyme in a Poem* by, Valerie Bodden (more for younger kids, a storybook-like introduction into what makes a poem)

*Pizza, Pigs and Poetry: How to Write a Poem* by Jack Prelutsky (reads like an autobiography, with original poems and writing tips)



# Verse/ Stanza/ Quatrain

A stanza is a poem with a certain amount of lines that rhyme in some way. The most common is called a Quatrain, a four-line stanza in which usually the second and the fourth line end with a rhyme. Stanzas can make up a long poem, similar to how paragraphs make up a story. Rhyming poetry is also called verse.

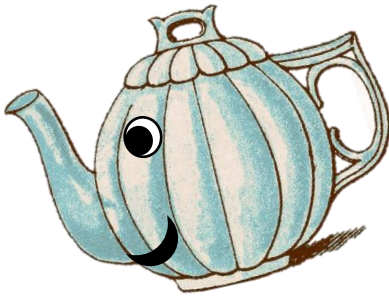
Examples:

There once was a boy  
Named Marvin McLoon  
Whose family vacation  
Was coming up soon

A  
B  
C  
B



(Excerpt from my book,  
*Baseball on the Moon*)



I'm a little teapot,  
short and stout  
Here is my handle,  
here is my spout

A  
B  
C  
B

Sometimes a poet uses the same word instead of a rhyming word, or sometimes they use slant rhymes; words that almost rhyme. The above poems are written with an ABCB rhyme pattern. Poems can also have an ABAB pattern where the first and third lines rhyme each other and the second and fourth lines rhyme. Another pattern is ABBA, rhyming the first and fourth together and then rhyming the second and third.

## Things to do:

- Notice the different rhyming patterns and stanzas in the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes
- Practice Rhyming
- Buy a Rhyming dictionary

Use this template to write your own ABCB Quatrain. Make sure the words in the boxes rhyme.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A  
B  
C  
B

# Limerick

A limerick is a five-line poem in which the first, second and fifth line rhyme, and the third and fourth line rhyme.

A limerick is also known for its unique rhythm. The first second and third lines are accented the same (usually the same number of syllables) and the third and fourth lines are accented the same (usually shorter in length than the other lines).

Examples:

Hickory, dickory, dock.  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck **one**,  
The mouse ran **down**,  
Hickory, dickory, dock



(This is an example of slant rhyming. 'One' and 'down' don't rhyme but are close enough to fit the poem.)



A mouse in her room woke Miss Dowd  
She was frightened, it must be allowed,  
Soon a happy thought **hit her**  
To scare off the **critter**  
She sat up in bed and meowed

***Though not required, limericks usually are quirky, witty or humorous.***

Use this template to try writing your own limerick. Make sure the words in the matching boxes rhyme.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Haiku

**Rule one:** Haikus have three lines; the first line has **five** syllables, the second line has **seven** syllables, the third line has **five** syllables.

**Rule two:** They are typically about nature

**Rule three:** They do not rhyme.

**Rule four:** They should be set in the present tense.



Examples:

An old silent pond...  
A frog jumps into the pond,  
Splash! Silence again.  
(by Matsuo Basho)

Delightful display  
Snowdrops bow their pure white heads  
To the sun's glory.  
(by, Paul Holmes)



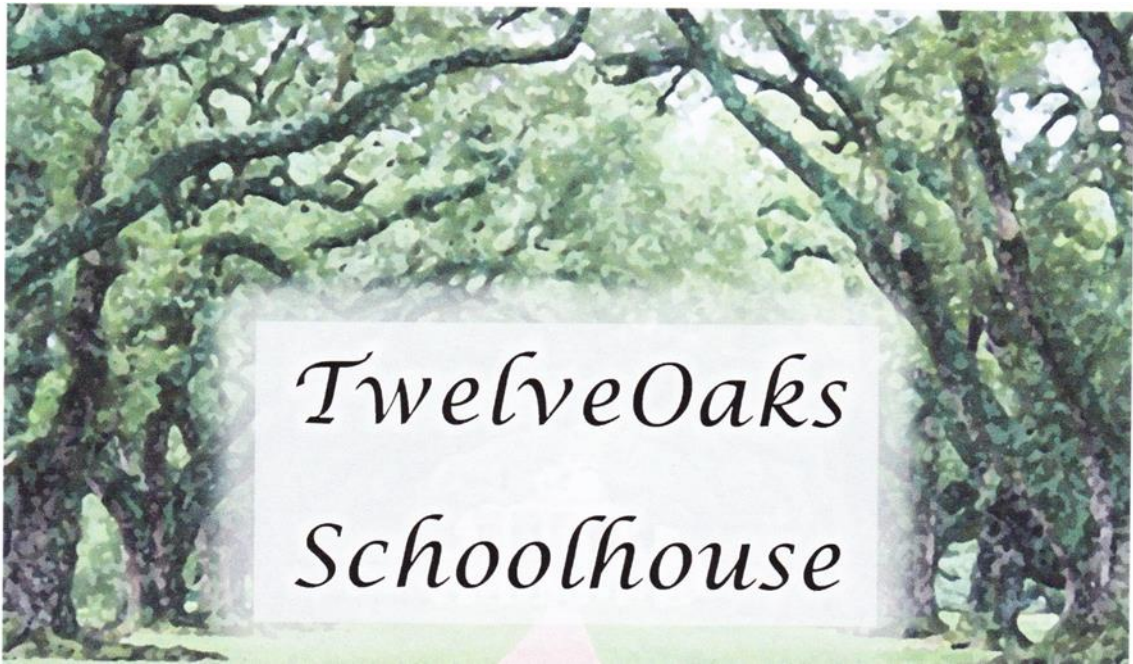
They say you're older  
One year added to your age.  
Lift your wings and fly.  
(by, Denise Rogers)

**Fun Fact: Haikus originated in 9<sup>th</sup> century Japan!**

Use the template below to write your own Haiku. Remember to follow the rules.

_____	5
_____	7
_____	5

# 俳



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*Kendra Bott*