

7 Poem Ideas

1. Alliteration and Assonance Poem

Create a list of ten or more pairs of words that contain alliteration and assonance. [Review: alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds (as in *hairy horse*). Assonance is repetition of the vowel sounds (*fox in sox*).] Use the words from your lists to write a 15-20 line poem describing a person who is significant to you in some way.

2. Extended metaphor poem

Make a list of five metaphors. Choose creative and unusual things to compare. Example: Freedom is a well-worn shoe. (The more unusual the comparison, the more interesting the poem will be.) Choose one of the metaphors and write a 15-20 line poem about it. Start with the metaphor as the first line, then repeat it in the last line. In between, extend the description of the metaphor. In the example above, the writer would describe the well-worn shoe in greater detail. (A well-worn shoe is comfortable, but its lining is getting thin and vulnerable to attack, it takes a long time to get to be well worn, etc.) Use active verbs and telegraphic language in your extended description of the metaphor.

3. Music Lyric poem

Choose a song that you feel has meaningful lyrics. Rewrite the lyrics with a very different theme or idea (ex. Make a love song into a song about a family trip disaster), but maintain similar rhythm and meter. (You can even steal the rhyming words if you want.) If it helps, pull up the lyrics on the computer, then copy/paste them into a document that you can adapt.

4. Love or Hate poem

Write a 15-20 line poem about something you love or hate. Use wild exaggerations in your poem. The wilder, the better!

5. Whiner poem

Write a 15-20 line poem where you whine as whinily as you can. You can choose to whine about your parents rules, the way your boyfriend/girlfriend treated you, that 10-page research paper the evil English teacher gave you, life in general, etc. Any topic is fair game for the whiner poem. Have a pity party!

6. Change of Perspective Poem

Write a 15-20 line poem from the perspective of an inanimate object. (toothbrush, book, alarm clock, shoe, Frisbee, whatever...)

7. Meaningful Poem

Create a list of ten things that have moved you emotionally over the past year (an unsolicited compliment, a hard situation you've been through, a certain movie, etc.). Choose one of these things to write a 15-20 line poem about. Try to help your reader feel the emotion by using "showing" rather than "telling" writing.