

Spring Into Poetry

Fun With Poetry

Learn about three types of poems.

Let's celebrate the season of spring with poetry! Spring is a time when life begins again. Flowers bloom. Many baby animals are born. Which poem is your favorite?

Rhyming

In a **rhyming** poem, the same sounds of two or more words repeat. The words that rhyme are often at the ends of lines.

The poem below is a **quatrain**. It has four lines in each **stanza**. A stanza is a grouping of lines. In a quatrain, the last words in lines two and four must rhyme. Can you find the rhyming words below?



Juniors Bildarchiv/Photolibrary

Hello Again

Listen! Do you hear it?
The quacking of beaks,
As mallards return

To lakes, ponds, and creeks.

They've come back to build nests,
And sunbathe on rocks,
And raise little ducklings
To add to their flocks.

- Marie E. Cecchini

Acrostic

In an **acrostic** poem, each line describes the topic word. Each letter of the word starts a new line. This poem about a flower uses the letters in the word *flower* to begin each line.



Paul McCormick/Getty Images

Fragrant
Lovely
Opened wide
Wind blows
Eager bee
Ready

- Rachelle Kreisman

Haiku

A **haiku** (HIGH-koo) is a type of poem from Japan. It is usually about nature. A haiku has

three lines. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has five syllables.



Stephanie Krause-Wieczorek/Photolibrary

The Colt

Frisky-full of pep.

Galloping through the green grass.

Always moving. Free.

- *Connie Unsworth*

bloom

bloom

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a flower; blossom.

A cactus may be a tough plant, but its blooms are delicate and beautiful.

2. the state or time of being in blossom.

Let's take some pictures while the tulips are in bloom.

3. the state or time of being in peak condition; prime.

These years saw the bloom of his creative genius.

4. a fresh glow or rosiness of the cheeks.

It was good to see the bloom back in her cheeks after weeks of illness.

5. in botany, a delicate coating on the surface of some leaves and fruits that resembles powder.

Bloom can be found on the surface of the plum.

intransitive verb

1. to produce flowers.

The daffodils are blooming, and the tulips will follow.

2. to flourish.

New ideas were blooming during these liberal times.

3. to be in a healthy, vigorous condition.

Having fully recovered from the illness, the child is now blooming.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Spring is the season when most apple trees start to **bloom**.
2. In June, Rome was warm and the roses were in **bloom**.
3. The air was crisp, the flowers were in **bloom**, and the birds chirped merrily in the trees.
4. Green grass grows, and flowers **bloom**!
5. The Harlem Renaissance was in full **bloom**.
6. They say the weather is warmer for longer periods now, so plants **bloom** longer.
7. Ricardo discovered he had a talent for imagining what the garden would look like in **bloom** and deciding which plants should go where.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a quatrain?

- A. a kind of poem in which each line describes the topic word
- B. a kind of poem in which each line has a specific number of syllables
- C. a kind of poem in which the last words in lines two and four rhyme
- D. a kind of poem in which none of the words rhyme

2. What does the acrostic poem by Rachelle Kreisman describe?

- A. a flower in the springtime
- B. the sound of ducks quacking
- C. a young horse, galloping in a field
- D. flocks of little ducklings

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"In a rhyming poem, the same sounds of two or more words repeat. The words that rhyme are often at the ends of lines.

The poem ['Hello Again'] is a quatrain. It has four lines in each stanza. A stanza is a grouping of lines. In a quatrain, the last words in lines two and four must rhyme."

Based on this information, what can you infer about the relationship between rhyming poems and quatrains?

- A. A rhyming poem is a kind of quatrain.
- B. A quatrain is a kind of rhyming poem.
- C. A rhyming poem is the same thing as a quatrain.
- D. Rhyming poems and quatrains have nothing in common.

4. Read this poem from the text.

"The Colt

Frisky-full of pep.

Galloping through the green grass.

Always moving. Free."

How could the colt in this poem be described?

- A. tired and upset
- B. lost and sad
- C. energetic and lively
- D. happy and hungry

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. the ducks returning to lakes, ponds, and creeks in the spring
- B. the celebration of spring through three different kinds of poems
- C. all of the different kinds of poems that exist
- D. the different ways that bees pollinate flowers in the spring

6. Why might the author have included three poems in the passage?

- A. to give an example of each kind of poem described in the passage
- B. to persuade readers that all poems should rhyme
- C. to explain the difference between a stanza and a quatrain
- D. to compare and contrast acrostic poems with haikus

7. Read this excerpt from a poem from the text.

"Listen! Do you hear it?
The quacking of beaks,
As mallards return
To lakes, ponds, and creeks."

What does the word "it" refer to here?

- A. the lakes, ponds, and creeks
- B. the sound of mallards building nests
- C. the little ducklings added to the flocks
- D. the quacking of beaks

8. A haiku has three lines. How many syllables are in each line of a haiku?

9. What makes "Hello Again" a quatrain?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Contrast haikus and quatrains, using the poems "Hello Again" and "The Colt" from the text.
