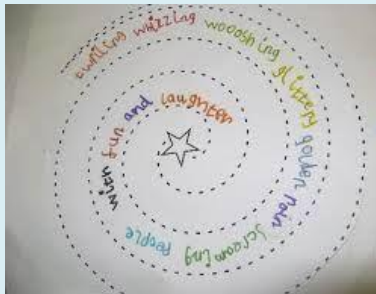




Whole School Poetry Overview 2026-2027

Year group	Poetry type	Features	Example of form	Suggested poems to use for each poetry type	Suggested poems to enjoy, recite, learn and perform
<u>EYFS</u> Poet focus: Julia Donaldson		Children to be immersed in hearing, enjoying, discussing, reciting and performing a range of rhymes, nursery rhymes and poems.			*Caribbean Counting Poem - Pamela Mordecai *Mrs Pirate- Nick Sharratt *Commotion in the ocean - Giles Andreae *What the ladybird heard - Julia Donaldson *Room on the broom - Julia Donaldson *The Dark Wood - anon
<u>Year 1</u> Poet focus: Michael Rosen Poetic devices to use: • rhyme • repetition	Rhyming couplets	Two lines of poetry that end with rhyming words. Can be structured as AABB, ABAB or ABCB.	<i>I need to cuddle Penguin.</i> <i>I need to cuddle Sheep.</i> <i>I need to cuddle Crocodile before I go to sleep.</i>	10 Dancing Dinosaurs - John Foster Food Stop - Benjamin Zephaniah Excuses - Alan Ahlberg	*Spaghetti Spaghetti - John Prelutsky *On the Ning, Nang, Nong - S Milligan *Now We Are Six - A.A Milne *Some One - Walter de la Mare *Hands - Julia Donaldson *Queue for the Zoo - Clare Bevan
	Riddles	The poem describes a noun (usually an object) but does not name it i.e., it may describe a tiger as striped and furry. Ideas could be extended using adjectives to describe each part of the object, or through prepositions.	<i>I hop, I leap</i> <i>You can find me in the garden</i> <i>In ponds, in lakes</i> <i>And under logs</i> <i>I leap, I croak</i> <i>Witches are my friend</i> <i>I'm a green and warty frog,</i>	https://www.poetry4kids.com/news/writing-riddles/	

<u>Year 2</u> Poet focus: Valerie Bloom Poetic devices to use: •alliteration •rhyme •repetition •rhythm	Calligram/ Shape poems A type of poetry where the shape and layout of the letters and words on the paper relate to the poem's meaning. Calligrams are also commonly called Shape poems. The poem usually describes an object. The layout may either be with the words inside a shape or around the outline of the shape.		What is he? - Liz Brownlee The Shape of a poem - Chris Odgen Aaaah!!!! At last it's Spring - James Carter Family Tree - Damien Harvey Word Whirls - John Foster	*Granny is - Valerie Bloom *As Soon As Fred Gets Out Of Bed - Jack Prelutsky *There's A Dragon In The Classroom - Charles Thomson *The Sleepy Giant - Charles E. Carryl
	Acrostic poems A type of poetry where the first, last or other letter in a line spell out a particular word or phrase. The most common and simple form is where the first letters of each line spell out the word or phrase. The acrostic links to a given theme e.g. <i>winter</i>. Lines usually end with commas. Ideas could be extended through using couplets.	Apples falling and Umber leaves, Tumbling to the ground. Underfoot are acorns and conkers, Many colours all around, Nature has been found.	Fireworks - Gervais Phinn Christmas - Gervais Phinn	*The Rhythm of Life - Michael Rosen *Nut Tree - Julia Donaldson
<u>Year 3</u> Poet focus: Joseph Coelho Poetic devices to use: •alliteration •rhyme •repetition •rhythm •simile	Limericks Limericks have origins that stretch back to the early years of the 18th century. They are usually humorous. They are written in 5 lines and have a strict AABBA rhyme scheme. The line structure is: <i>Line 1: 7-10 syllables;</i> <i>Line 2: 7-10 syllables;</i> <i>Line 3: 5-7 syllables;</i> <i>Line 4: 5-7 syllables;</i> <i>Line 5: 7-10 syllables.</i> The first line usually begins with 'There was a...' and ends with the name of a person or place.	<i>There once was a boy called Joe Who dropped a big brick on his toe He asked, with a frown "Will the swelling go down?" And the doctor said, "Yes, I think so."</i>	Loopy Limericks (book) by John Foster	*I Don't Want to Go to School - Colin McNaughton *Slowly - James Reeves *The Sound Collector - Roger McGough *The Duelling Duo - Joseph Coelho *Life doesn't Frighten me at all - Mya Angelou *Twenty Four Hours - Charles Causley

	Narrative poems	Narrative poems essentially tell a story. They were written to be read aloud and include the usual elements of a story: characters, setting, conflict, dialogue, climax, resolution Narrative poems use literary devices such as simile, metaphor, figurative language etc. They often rhyme, but not always.	<i>The Iron Man stood on the brink of the cliff</i> <i>Tall as a house, all rigid and stiff.</i> <i>His great iron head turned left then right</i> <i>As he stood on the cliff in the dark of night.</i> <i>His headlamp eyes searched far and wide.</i> <i>His iron ears listened to the swell of the tide.</i>	Scared - Michael Rosen The Listeners - Walter de la Mer The Sound Collector - Roger McGough The Iron Man - Brenda Williams	
	Free verse on a theme	Free verse is a form of poetry free from traditional rules. It is characterised by irregular rhythm and rhyme, though both may be used at times. There may be irregular line length.	<u>Summer</u> <i>Hot, sticky, season</i> <i>Orange, yellow, red swirl</i> <i>Boiling and baking like an oven</i> <i>As hot as the sun</i> <i>Smells like fresh roses and freshly mowed grass</i> <i>Hot, sticky, season.</i>		
<u>Year 4</u> Poet focus: Benjamin Zephaniah Poetic devices to use: • alliteration • rhyme • repetition • rhythm • simile • metaphor • onomatopoeia	Haikus	The haiku originates from Japan. The mood of a haiku is generally serious, and can relate to many themes, including nature or love. It is written as 3 lines and has 17 syllables in total. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line 7 syllables, and the final line has 5 syllables. Haikus do not usually rhyme and tend to be written in the present tense.	<i>The sky is so blue,</i> <i>The sky is so warm up high,</i> <i>I love the summer.</i>	Seaview Haiku - John Foster Windy Day - John Foster Haiky Riddle - Celia Warren	*Gran Can you Rap - Jack Ousby *Walking with my Iguana - Brian Moses *The British poem - Benjamin Zephaniah *Homework Oh Homework - Jack Prelutsky *If All The World Were Paper - Joseph Coelho *The Treasures - Clare Bevan
	 kennings	kennings are derived from Old Norse verse. They are two-word phrases used in place of a single noun, sometimes using metaphors <i>eg ankle-biter referring to toddler.</i>	<i>Perfect predator</i> <i>Day dreamer</i> <i>Coat cleaner</i> <i>Rapid runner</i> <i>Mouse chaser</i> <i>Skilled climber</i>	Where Do I Play? by Roger Stevens Who Am I? by Roger Stevens	

		Each line consists of one kenning. There is no set number of lines in each verse. The kennings should be ordered within the poem with consideration of the impact on the reader.			
	Free verse on a theme	Free verse is a form of poetry free from traditional rules. It is characterised by irregular rhythm and rhyme, though both may be used at times. There may be irregular line length.	<u>The Truth</u> <i>Truth is a mountain which must be bravely climbed</i> <i>Truth is the wind which swirls around the snowy peaks</i> <i>Truth is in the trees which keep me company on my ascent</i> <i>But on the journey, truth couldn't be seen amongst the storm</i>		
<u>Year 5</u> Poet focus: Naomi Shihab Nye Poetic devices to use: •alliteration •rhyme •repetition •rhythm •simile •metaphor •onomatopoeia •personification •an awareness of vocabulary choice	Cinquains	Cinquains are a form of syllabic poetry characterised by a distinctive 5 line structure: 1st line: 2 syllables 2nd line: 4 syllables 3rd line: 6 syllables 4th line: 8 syllables 5th line: 2 syllables They can be written as a riddle where the last line reveals the subject of the poem. Alternatively, the first line can be the subject of the poem, the following lines adding description, movement using adverbs, a phrase describing the scene and a re-stating of the subject, perhaps in a more elaborate form.	<i>A fire.</i> <i>An inferno.</i> <i>A blazing, gazing eye.</i> <i>And one golden, open oven...</i> <i>The sun.</i> <i>Snowflake</i> <i>Frozen liquid</i> <i>Falling, drifting, dancing</i> <i>Covering everything in white</i> <i>Blizzard</i>	November Night- Adelaide Crapsey Snow - Adelaide Crapsey Winter - Adelaide Crapsey Blackbird - John Foster At the Gate - John Foster The Wood in late Autumn - John Foster Mirror - John Foster How to Write Cinquains? - John Foster	*From a Railway Carriage - Robert Louis Stevenson *The River - Valerie Bloom *Whatif by Shel Silverstein *Shoulders by Naomi Shihab Nye *Football Mad - Benjamin Zephaniah *Rum Tum Tiger - T.S Eliot
	Narrative poems	Narrative poems essentially tell a story. They were written to be read aloud and include the usual elements of a story: characters, setting, conflict, dialogue, climax, resolution	<i>Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard,</i> <i>And he tapped with his whip on the shutters, but all was locked and barred;</i>	The Highway Man - Alfred Noyse The Owl and the Pussycat - Edward Lear	

		Narrative poems use literary devices such as simile, metaphor, figurative language etc. They often rhyme, but not always. In Year 5, a narrative poem could include the following features: • rhyme • structure • archaic language • hyperbole • symbolism • personification • repetition	<i>He whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there? But the landlord's black-eyed daughter, Bess, the landlord's daughter, Plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.</i>	The Listeners by Walter De La Mare The Pied Piper by Robert Browning Matilda by Hillaire Belloc The Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll The Pillow book by Sei Shonagon The Sick Rose by William Blake	
	Free verse on a theme	Free verse is a form of poetry free from traditional rules. It is characterised by irregular rhythm and rhyme, though both may be used at times. There may be irregular line length.	<i>The mountain stood so vast and tall Looking down upon us all The wind cloaks herself in dark at night She whips and cries and gave a fright The trees capture innocent passers-by They used their limbs to clutch them tight in the cold and crisp night sky</i>		
<u>Year 6</u> Poet focus: John Agard Poetic devices to use: • alliteration • rhyme	Classical poems	Free verse is a form of poetry free from traditional rules. It is characterised by irregular rhythm and rhyme, though both may be used at times. There may be irregular line length.	<i>The sea is a hungry dog, Giant and grey. He rolls on the beach all day. With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws Hour upon hour he gnaws The rumbling, tumbling stones, And 'Bones, bones, bones, bones! ' The giant sea-dog moans, Licking his greasy paws.</i>	Night Mail - W.H. Auden Daffodils - William Wordsworth The Tyger - William Blake	*I Asked the River by Valerie Bloom *I am a Writer by Joseph Coelho *Where poppies grow now - Hilary Robinson *Ye Spotted Snakes - William Shakespeare *The Jumblies - Edward Lear

•repetition •rhythm •simile •metaphor •onomatopoeia •personification •an awareness of vocabulary choice •poet style and structure	Free verse on a theme	Free verse is a form of poetry free from traditional rules. It is characterised by irregular rhythm and rhyme, though both may be used at times. There may be irregular line length.	<i>The mountain stood so vast and tall</i> <i>Looking down upon us all</i> <i>The wind cloaks herself in dark at night</i> <i>She whips and cries and gave a fright</i> <i>The trees capture innocent passers-by</i> <i>They used their limbs to clutch them tight in the cold and crisp night sky</i>		*What I Love About School - Roger McGough
	Sonnets	A sonnet is a lyrical poem - the most famous being written by Shakespeare. It is composed of 14 lines of iambic pentameter with 3 quatrains and a heroic couplet. The rhyme scheme is: abab, cdcd, efef, gg. The structure usually includes the introduction of a problem, building toward a solution by the close of the poem.	<i>Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?</i> <i>Thou art more lovely and more temperate:</i> <i>Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,</i> <i>And summer's lease hath all too short a date:</i> <i>Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,</i> <i>And often is his gold complexion dimmed,</i> <i>And every fair from fair sometime declines,</i> <i>By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed:</i> <i>But thy eternal summer shall not fade,</i> <i>Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,</i> <i>Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,</i> <i>When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,</i>	Summer-water Sonnet Gillian Clarke Lines Upon Westminster Bridge by William Wordsworth Mermaid - Susan Rogerson Who Can Know? - Susan Cartwright Smith The bottom of the Jar - Susan Cartwright Smith	

			<i>So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, So long lives this, and this gives life to thee</i>		
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