



# *DAILY POETRY CHALLENGES*

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# ABC POEMS

use the letters of the alphabet in order to begin each line

Loyal friend from the beginning, close-keeper of secrets  
Mannerly, upstanding ... rock-like really ... A  
Noble man, unreluctant to step  
Outside the lines to care for those he loves.

Dr. Alcott to those Above ... Peter Below ... willingly on call.

\* \* \*

Catherine, love, love me in the long sunlight,  
draw from me deep kisses,  
enlist my hands to your bidding,  
flame-strike my soul

Everything begins with you.

\* \* \*

*Remember Love* even while you sleep.  
Should worry plague you, taunt you, tease you ...  
Trust love. I am coming to you. Lift  
Up your hand, touch my face,  
Vincent. My kiss is real.  
Wake now. Wake, Love.



# ACROSTICS

*the first letters of each line spell out a particular name, and the poem relates to that character.*

Easy-going, but insightful, she is like a candle ...  
Delightfully warm, a force of light  
In A Secret Place, she would find home and family, a golden  
Earth-light to shine within. Tell her everything.

\*\*\*

Fear not, my miracle  
All I have I give to you  
Trust these arms, my hands, this  
Heart  
Every breath I draw is in your service  
Rest, my rose, just born. Mine.

\* \* \*

Just a girl  
And not a leader.  
Mouse knows better.  
In time,  
Everyone will.

\* \* \*

Choosing a new  
Home together,  
Another haven, all ours, only ours ... a  
Move I could never have anticipated.  
Beyond the waterfall, the  
Entrance nearly enchanted, we will  
Retreat into this heaven and  
Shelter together in joy for always.

\* \* \*

When the long gray cold lingers  
In my heart and  
No small light  
Teases past the gloom,  
Ever I think on thee, bright candle, light of  
Friendship and fellowship and  
Ease of spirit, an incandescence of  
Sanctuary,  
Testimony of hope.

## ALLITERATION POEMS

*use the same consonant at the beginning of each stressed syllable in a line of verse.*

Beauty, her badge a brand, begins anew. Beloved, she believes.

\* \* \*

Father's Library – Manifestly muddled, messy, mixed-up, yet there's  
method in the mishmash.

\* \* \*

Mary mends and makes do ... No martyr, she ... the work her  
meaningful meditation and ministry.

# THE CINQUAIN

is a five line poem

Line 1: one word, a subject or noun.

Line 2: two words, adjectives that describe line one.

Line 3: three words, adverbs or action words that relate to line one.

Line 4: feelings or a complete sentence that relates to line one.

Line 5: one word, a synonym of line one or a word that sums it up.

*Winterfest,*  
Sparkly, Sweet-scented  
Reminding, Believing, Exciting  
The time between forgotten, once upon a time is now  
Celebration

\* \* \*

*Darkness.*  
Welcome. Necessary.  
Veiling, Liberating, Allowing.  
The fleeting hours anticipated and cherished  
Emancipation

\* \* \*

*Samhain*  
Dense-misted, thin-walled  
Mysterical, transitory, liberating ...  
Those kept apart walk arm in arm, hand in hand  
Magical

\* \* \*

*The pipes*

Ringling, resonant,  
Thronged, unceasing seemingly indecipherable,  
But beneath it all, a whisper, *this ...* to you, my  
Love-letter

\* \* \*

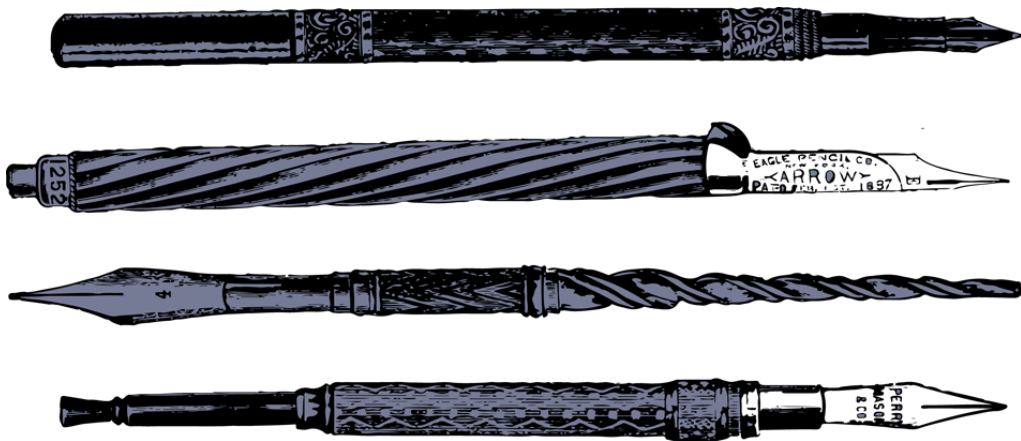
*Threshold*

Inexplicable, enchanted  
Yearning, wishing, promising  
Between two worlds, the hearts' meeting place  
Starting-point

\* \* \*

*Edie*

Girlfriend  
True-blue, Playful  
Defending, Sensing, Laughing  
Who better to have in one's court  
Edie



# THE CLERIHEW

is a comic verse consisting of two couplets and a specific rhyming scheme, *aabb*, describing a particular person.

Edie rocks the one-earring look  
Singing from her own fashion song book.  
As well, carries slippers in her purse,  
An example of personal free-verse.

\* \* \*

Mouse speaks a certain shorthand  
A challenge to always understand,  
But listen close and you will hear  
A private poetry – to him ... entirely clear.

\* \* \*

Kristopher

Outside the lines he colors –  
A perplexity to others,  
But that smile he employs  
Does anything but annoy.

\* \* \*

Elizabeth really likes orange  
Which nothing rhymes with exactly.  
Shoot ...  
Must reboot!

\* \* \*

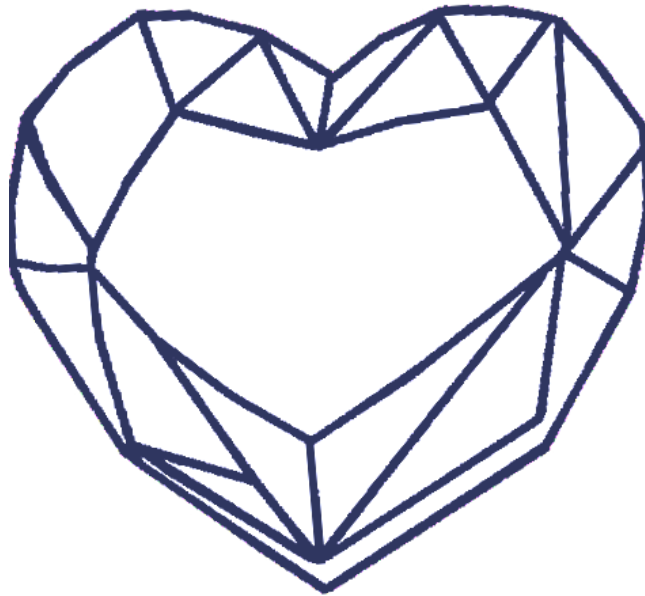
William

Tough as hardtack,  
behind his back  
he's secreting sweets  
for the friends that he seeks

\* \* \*

Father

Over his glasses consistently peering,  
To his arguments closely adhering ...  
Is he right? Perhaps, maybe. Is he wrong? Sometimes so.  
Nevertheless he seems always to "know".





# DIAMANTE

A diamante poem, when written out, takes the shape of a diamond,  
and is made up of 7 lines using a set structure:

Beginning subject  
Two describing words about line 1  
Three doing words about line 1  
A short phrase about line 1, a short phrase about line 7  
Three doing words about line 7  
Two describing words about line 7  
End subject

Waterfall  
Loud, close  
Rushing, tumbling, sparkling  
Music, energy ... Voices, memories  
Surprising, drifting, fading  
Hushed, whispery  
Bridge

\* \* \*

Darkness  
Heavy, un-still  
Swirling, disorienting, breathtaking,  
Chaos, fear ... breakthrough, surprise  
Glinting, dawning, revealing  
Luminous, aglow  
Light

\* \* \*

Reunion  
awaited, necessary  
thrilling, rousing, compelling  
homecoming, hearthstone, shelter, circle  
reminding, inspiriting, confirming  
joyful, awesome  
Winterfest

## ANTONYM DIAMANTE.

A Diamante poem, when written out, takes the shape of a diamond,  
and is made up of 7 lines using a set structure.

Antonym Diamante poems are about opposites – the first and last  
words convey opposite meanings.

Subject A  
Two describing words about subject A  
Three action words about subject A  
Two concrete nouns about subject A, Two concrete nouns about Subject B  
Three action words about Subject B  
Two describing words about Subject B  
Subject B

\* \* \*

Father  
Honorable, protective  
Aspiring, sheltering, unwavering  
Ethics, harmony. Discord, spite  
Cunning, grudging, possessing  
Jealous, ambitious  
Paracelsus

# A FIBONACCI POEM

is a multiple-line verse based on the Fibonacci sequence so that the number of syllables in each line equals the total number of syllables in the preceding two lines.

## A Winterfest Memory – *Vincent's*

The  
door  
opened  
to darkness,  
but Devin took my  
hand, and then ... candlelight ... and cheers.

\* \* \*

## Narcissa

See  
Not  
In fact,  
But see in  
Truth and all that is  
Possible between the shadows

\* \* \*

## Nancy

Sage  
Kind  
Loving  
Insightful  
When all's said, and when  
all's done, you must follow your heart

# THE HAIKU

is a traditional Japanese three-line poem with seventeen syllables,  
written in a 5-7-5 syllable count.

## Father's Library

The world on paper  
Between soft leather bindings  
My dreams in my hands

\* \* \*

## Narcissa

Grey-clouded, fog-hazed  
Eyes that see elsewhere clearly  
What was, what might be

\* \* \*

## The Carousel

Neigh, calliope.  
Black horse, brown horse, elephant,  
Whirling, grab the ring.

\* \* \*

## An episode: Once Upon a Time in the City of New York

Cold stars, night shadows  
A too-still form in my arms  
Hope jolts both our hearts

\* \* \*

## Vincent in the Crystal Cavern

Dancing light – white fire,  
blue ice. Myself, reflected ...  
A man made whole ... new.

\* \* \*

Mouse's hat, two rays  
Beam from over-ear, parting  
Shadows at his feet.

\* \* \*

## Samhain

Golden light shines through  
thinned walls, allowing passage.  
Two lovers now dance.

\* \* \*



# THE HUITAIN

a French verse form of eight lines or sets of lines of 8 or 10 syllables  
rhyming ababbcbc

## Father's Chamber

There are secrets secreted here  
between the books and pages,  
behind the tight-shut door, my fear ...  
memories locked in cages  
for ages, it seems, and ages ...  
artifacts of failure at love,  
the loss of joy ... it rages.  
No more shall I go above.

\* \* \*

## The Whispering Bridge

You can hear them if you try ...  
Voices just beyond imagining.  
Close ... as if whispered, as if sung, as if cried.  
I pause and welcome the world above – its laughter, the yearnings.  
I am here, I answer ... and in this moment of magical sharing  
I know the meaning of enchantment.  
So still I stand, yet your joys send me flying.  
Bridge of sighs, bridge of astonishments.



# THE LIST POEM

A poem that is made up of a list of words related to a central topic.  
It can be any length and rhymed or unrhymed.

## *Pascal's Pipes*

Pathways  
Junctions  
Conduits  
Conveyers  
Destinations  
Origins  
Hollows  
Thuds  
Chimes  
Clangs  
Raps  
Taps  
Communal  
Confidential  
Qestions  
Replies  
Connection

\* \* \*

*Father's Chamber*

Nooks of mystery  
Crannies of history  
A captain's wheel  
A desk, its drawers of letters and notes to self  
Gifts displayed (some hidden?)  
Statuary  
Maps  
A pen and paper  
Books  
And more books  
A velvet chair  
A game of chess, half-played  
A brazier surely  
A stash of tea  
A favorite cup  
Memories  
Responsibilities  
Dreams

\* \* \*

*Central Park*

arches  
bridges  
their shadowy shade  
the whispering bench  
the turtles  
and birds  
in Bank Rock Bay  
the Ramble  
its cave  
its stone steps down  
mine  
ours



# LIMERICK

A humorous, frequently bawdy verse of three long and two short lines rhyming *aabba*

*Tony Ramos*

Tony, little thief of soft hearts,  
Relied on abounding street smarts.  
But family he found,  
Plus one underground.  
What security that bond imparts!

\* \* \*

*Kristopher*

Another sitting? Maybe ... naked?  
After all, you're eternally mated.  
Kristopher grinned,  
Brandished a pen,  
But Vincent had already skated.

\* \* \*

*The Balcony*

From a balcony up eighteen flights,  
He beckons her night after night.  
Our window Above  
Will shelter our love.  
Let's cuddle until it be light.

\* \* \*

*A Kiss*

Lips parted, he softly did kiss  
the strong pulse at the bend of her wrist.  
She sighed and she gasped.  
The other each then did grasp.  
What happened next is too private to list!

\* \* \*

*Catherine*

In the mirror, she saw his reflection,  
and smiled as she turned his direction.  
The phone cord was cut,  
The curtains pulled shut.  
She'd left nothing to chance or objection!

\* \* \*

*The Honeymooners*

Pascal put his ear to the pipes.  
He listened, then blushed and yelped "Yikes!"  
The rhythm he heard  
Was a love song, not words ...  
V & C on ascent to new heights!!

\* \* \*

*Kissing*

He wondered what all he was missing  
By not going full on with kissing  
Then, facing his fears,  
he said, Catherine, come here!  
Now the sunrise, they're both still dismissing.

# NONET

A nine-line poem. There are 9 syllables in the first line, 8 in the second, 7 in the third, etc., counting down to 1 in the last line.

## *Under the Bandstand*

Music rains down (Sometimes real rain too)  
I'm bathed in melody and joy  
Stars shimmer down through the grate  
(Your smile shimmers brighter)  
You interrupt me ...  
(I'm reminding)  
Your blue dress ...  
(Off, please)  
Yes.

\* \* \*

## *William*

Hot-headed and grouchy – it's an act.  
Beneath the gruff, the bearish man,  
ungraceful though he be ... loves,  
simply loves, loves deeply.  
Old hurts bred sharp fears.  
He snarls them back ...  
yet he hides  
with them  
still.

\* \* \*

*Closing Circle*

Come join the circle, you're one of us ...  
Could there be sweeter words than these?  
Then you took my hand, Father,  
and Vincent, you claimed me,  
made me family,  
ended my search.  
I am home.  
I know  
love.



# PERSONA POEMS

are written from the point of view of someone or something other than your own – not *about* the character or object, but as if you *are* that character or object.

## *Catherine's Crystal*

I am light  
broken from a celestial throne,  
a storm of ice and fire ...  
borne to earth,  
cleaved from it,  
more perfect now  
in this home.

\* \* \*

## *The Broken Headlamp in Vincent's Room*

Don't throw me away, don't, please don't.  
I have use in me still. I have ...  
purpose.  
Polish away the years, the dust of *forgotten*, the sting of *cast-aside*.  
See me.  
Save me.  
Once day, I will return the favor.

\* \* \*

## *Shadows*

I wait

I beckon

I obscure

Yet ...

I offer cover

I bring nuance

And contrast

And depth of feeling and thought.

Can there be joy without the distinction of sorrow?

Daybreak without the precedent of night?

I attach myself and follow – I am your second self

But require the light to be.

## THE SIMILE

is a poem that compares one thing to another with the words 'like' or 'as'.

Her eyes, grey-green and tender as the cushion of moss beneath my  
cheek ...

her loving look touches me, travels me.

I turn to gaze up at stars and wish.

# THE SHADORMA

is a Spanish six-line syllabic poem, using the pattern 3/5/3/3/7/5.

*Winslow*

Blustery

Quick with opinion ...

All strong heart  
and loyal.

Grateful for love ... though not his,  
he guards his secret.

\* \* \*

*Winterfest*

Oh, at last

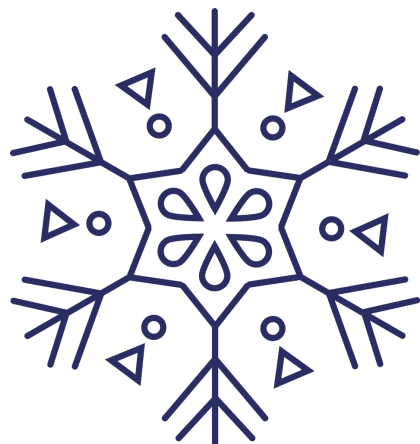
we meet again, friends

forever,

bound by dreams,

set free – boundless – by the same.

Winterfest begins.



# THE TANKA

is very similar to haiku, but Tanka poems have more syllables – there are five lines. It uses simile, metaphor and personification and are written about nature, seasons, love, sadness, and other strong emotions.

Under the band shell  
A symphony  
plays on in my mind  
while Catherine, wet with rain,  
kisses me soundly.

\* \* \*

Nancy

My nightmare  
rushed her in,  
not  
the shattered lamp in pieces like my heart.  
In the glitter of glass, she brushed clear my path.

\* \* \*

This bed  
Once a boat  
Of dreams  
On still waters now knows  
The current of love



# THE 5 Ws POEM

is five lines long. The first line tells *who*. The second line tells *what*. The third line tells *where*. The fourth line tells *when*. The fifth line tells *why*.

## The Episode: To Reign in Hell

Winslow, his dreams damped down,  
championed the love he believed in, nonetheless. Braved danger,  
when that love – not his, yet his, his, too – was threatened.  
Braved the depths and that bleak darkness  
to stand forever, their guardian.

\* \* \*

Joe,  
A righter of wrongs,  
Too early and too late  
At his desk, in his office  
He labors between evil and the innocent

\* \* \*

