

In this assignment, we explored how poetry is different from regular language, lacking meter. Different rhythmic forms include the ballad, lyric, ode, elegy, epic, villanelle, metaphysical, romantic, and limerick.

**Ballad-** Poetry in the form of a ballad consists of language that is very lyrical, emotional and visual. Ballads often tell stories and are structured into three or four line stanzas, called quatrains with rhyming patterns on alternating lines or in the second and fourth lines.

1. Ballad poem by 19th century Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Elements of the poem that suggest it's a ballad are the quatrain stanzas and lyrical language. The Ballad poem is presented in a narrative form which tells the story a sailor doomed by an ocean storm. Lines such as "By thy long grey beard and glittering eye, Now wherefore stoppest thou me?" contain deep imagery that well suits the dramatic mood of the ballad.

It is an ancient mariner  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
—"By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stoppest thou me?"

The bridegroom's doors are opened wide,  
And I am next of kin;  
The guests are met, the feast is set:  
Mayst hear the merry din."

He holds him with his skinny hand,  
"There was a ship," quoth he.  
"Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!"  
Eftsoons his hand dropped he.

He holds him with his glittering eye—  
The wedding-guest stood still,  
And listens like a three-years' child:  
The mariner hath his will.

**Lyric-** Lyric poems which got their name from songs being accompanied by the lyre (a harp like stringed instrument), are often very memorable through the use of repetition

and emphasis on moments of great emotion. They are different from narrative poetry because while ballad poems typically tell stories, lyric poems really showcase the internal state of the speaker. Types of lyric poetry include the elegy and the ode.

**Ode-** Odes tend to be *lyric* poems, spoken by one speaker. Odes usually address serious themes with powerful language in a strictly stanzaic structure.

Ode: 3) This excerpt of a lyric poem “Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood” by William Wordsworth is an example of an ode because it is personal and reflects the inner state of the speaker. Wordsworth reflects on his sadness for the diminished beauty of the meadow, the grove, the stream, the meadow, the night sky, and other elements of nature that he appreciated as a child.

THERE was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,

    The earth, and every common sight,

    To me did seem

    Apparell'd in celestial light,

The glory and the freshness of a dream.           5

It is not now as it hath been of yore;—

    Turn wheresoe'er I may,

    By night or day,

The things which I have seen I now can see no more.

    The rainbow comes and goes,     10

    And lovely is the rose;

    The moon doth with delight

    Look round her when the heavens are bare;

    Waters on a starry night

    Are beautiful and fair;     15

    The sunshine is a glorious birth;

    But yet I know, where'er I go,

That there hath pass'd away a glory from the earth.

**Elegy**- a mournful or melancholic poem, typically a lament for the dead.

#### 4) Elegy Poem *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* by W.H. Auden

This poem commemorates the life and work of the poet William Butler Yeats (the W.B. Yeats of the title). Things start off simply enough: the speaker imagines what it must have been like for Yeats on the last day of his life, and the speaker begins the difficult process of imaging a world in which Yeats's poems will still exist even though their author is gone.

He disappeared in the dead of winter:

The brooks were frozen, the airports almost deserted,

And snow disfigured the public statues;

The mercury sank in the mouth of the dying day.

What instruments we have agree

The day of his death was a dark cold day.

Far from his illness

The wolves ran on through the evergreen forests,

The peasant river was untempted by the fashionable quays;

By mourning tongues

The death of the poet was kept from his poems.

But for him it was his last afternoon as himself,

An afternoon of nurses and rumours;

The provinces of his body revolted,

The squares of his mind were empty,

Silence invaded the suburbs,

The current of his feeling failed; he became his admirers.

Now he is scattered among a hundred cities

And wholly given over to unfamiliar affections,

To find his happiness in another kind of wood

And be punished under a foreign code of conscience.

The words of a dead man

Are modified in the guts of the living.

**Epic** - a long, narrative poem that is usually about heroic deeds and events that are significant to the culture of the poet.

Epic Poem an excerpt from *The Odyssey by Homer*

*This poem is an epic poem it tells the a story with a multi-faceted plot. The poem depicts a hero who conquered the city of troy, and him and his men's adventures overseas. This poem is an epic poem because it contains heroic tales and pertains to the culture of the author. Homer, the speaker, was a Greek poet, who wrote many poems containing greek myths.*

"Tell me, O muse, of that ingenious hero who travelled far and wide after he had sacked the famous town of Troy.

Many cities did he visit, and many were the nations with whose manners and customs he was acquainted; moreover he suffered much by sea while trying to save his own life and bring his men safely home; but do what he might he could not save his men, for they perished through their own sheer folly in eating the cattle of the Sun-god Hyperion; so the god prevented them from ever reaching home. Tell me, too, about all these things, O daughter of Jove, from whatsoever source you may know them."

**Villanelle**- A French verse form consisting of five three-line stanzas and a final quatrain (a stanza consisting of 4 lines), with the first and third lines of the first stanza repeating alternately in the following stanzas.

Villanelle *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night* by Dylan Thomas

Here you can see how Thomas structures his poem into five three-line stanzas and a final quatrain (a stanza consisting of 4 lines). The first and third lines of the first stanza repeating alternately in the following stanzas.

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

romantic- “Romantic poets cultivated individualism, reverence for the natural world, idealism, physical and emotional passion, and an interest in the mystic and supernatural” Walt Whitman and Edgar Allan Poe are American romantic poets.

8) Romantic poetry THE CONQUEROR WORM BY EDGAR ALLAN POE (1843)

The Conqueror Worm well captures Poe’s dark style of romantic writing that many refer to as “gothic poetry.”

A line that is especially dark is “An angel throng, bewinged, bedight in veils, and drowned in tears.” An angel, a figure that is thought to be pure and innocent, is stripped of its wings and drowned in tears.

Poe also believed in the lack of necessity of rational and intellectual elements in poetry, which he replaces with emotion. For example, the storyline of the Conqueror Worm contains characters that are mostly supernatural or angelic (not found in everyday life).

Lo! 'tis a gala night

    Within the lonesome latter years!

An angel throng, bewinged, bedight

    In veils, and drowned in tears,

Sit in a theatre, to see

    A play of hopes and fears,

While the orchestra breathes fitfully

    The music of the spheres.

Mimes, in the form of God on high,

    Mutter and mumble low,

And hither and thither fly-

    Mere puppets they, who come and go

At bidding of vast formless things

    That shift the scenery to and fro,

Flapping from out their Condor wings

    Invisible Woe!

That motley drama- oh, be sure

It shall not be forgot!

With its Phantom chased for evermore,

By a crowd that seize it not,

Through a circle that ever returneth in

To the self-same spot,

And much of Madness, and more of Sin,

And Horror the soul of the plot.

But see, amid the mimic rout

A crawling shape intrude!

A blood-red thing that writhes from out

The scenic solitude!

It writhes!- it writhes!- with mortal pangs

The mimes become its food,

And seraphs sob at vermin fangs

In human gore imbued.

Out- out are the lights- out all!

And, over each quivering form,

The curtain, a funeral pall,

Comes down with the rush of a storm,

While the angels, all pallid and wan,

Uprising, unveiling, affirm

That the play is the tragedy, "Man,"

And its hero the Conqueror Worm.

**limerick**- aabba rhyme scheme verse of three long and two short lines... limericks are supposed to be humorous and lighthearted

Limerick-

Hickory Dickory Dock showed up in "Tommy Thumb's Pretty Songbook" in 1744. The famed tale of the timepiece-dwelling mouse appeared beside "Bah Bah, Blacksheep" and "Lady Bird, Lady Bird," among others. No one knows for certain who penned the book, but it was one of the world's first attempts to entertain children with literature. Both the limericks, "Hickory Dickory Dock" and "The Man from Nantucket" contain aabba rhyme schemes and verses of three long lines and two short lines. Both limericks are popular nursery rhymes that young children seem to enjoy. (sorry this is so bad)

"Hickory dickory dock.

The mouse ran up the clock.

The clock struck one,

And down he run.

Hickory dickory dock."

The Man from Nantucket

It appeared in Princeton University's humor magazine, the "Princeton Tiger," in 1902:

"There once was a man from Nantucket

Who kept all his cash in a bucket.

But his daughter, named Nan,

Ran away with a man,



And as for the bucket, Nantucket.”

**metaphysical**- The English metaphysical movement of the 17th century consisted of poetry that was flooded with reason and often concluded in paradox. These poems use unusual imagery, paradox and are typically extremely complicated and difficult to interpret. Metaphysical poetry was used to explain concepts and ideas that were unexplainable by science such as, true love, death, and man’s relationship with God.

The metaphysical poem “For the Whom The Bell Tolls” which uses elements of nature as symbols, is difficult to interpret like most metaphysical poems. What do you think it means?

## For Whom The Bell Tolls

John Donne

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself.  
Each is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manner of thine own  
Or of thine friend’s were.  
Each man’s death diminishes me,  
For I am involved in mankind.  
Therefore, send not to know  
For whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.

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