

Types of poetry

- 1.Descriptive
- 2.Reflective
- 3.Narrative
- 4.The lyric
5. The sonnet

1-Descriptive Poetry: poems which describe people or experiences, scenes or objects.

2-Reflective Poetry: thoughtful poems often containing a great deal of description which the poet comments on or from which he draws conclusions.

3-Narrative Poetry: poems which tell a story. They tend to be longer than other types of poetry but it is comparatively easy to recognize the poet's intention.

4-The lyric: usually a short poem like a song which is usually the expression of a mood or feeling.

5-The Sonnet: a poem of fourteen lines which follows a very strict rhyme pattern.

It is usually divided into two parts: the octave (**the first eight lines**), and the sestet (**the last six lines**).

There are two types of Sonnets:

- 1- An Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet is a 14-line poem divided into an octave (8 lines) and a sestet (6 lines)

The pattern of rhyme for an Italian sonnet is: abbaabba (octave) *cde cde or cdcdcd (sestet)

For example:

John Milton, **When I Consider How My Light Is Spent**

Octave (8 lines) – ABBAABBA

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide,
Lodg'd with me useless, though my Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide;
“Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?”
I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent

Sestet (6 lines) – CDECDE

That murmur, soon replies, “God doth not need
Either man’s work or his own gifts; who best

Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is Kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait.”

2- A Shakespearean (Elizabethan) sonnet is a 14-line poem with three quatrains (four lines in each) and a final rhyming couplet (two lines).

following the rhyme scheme **ABAB CDCD EFEF GG**.

For example:

William Shakespeare – Sonnet 18

Quatrain 1

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;

Quatrain 2

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed;

Quatrain 3

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;

Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:

Couplet

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee