



Poetry Structure Layout

Begin your journey

1. Choose a Theme or Central Idea

- What do you want your poem to express?
- Common themes include love, nature, identity, pain, joy, freedom, and time.

Example: *Loneliness during a storm.*

2. Decide on a Form or Style

- **Free Verse** – no rules, flexible.
- **Haiku** – 3 lines (5-7-5 syllables).
- **Sonnet** – 14 lines, usually with a rhyme scheme.
- **Narrative** – tells a story.
- **Lyric** – focuses on emotion and mood.
- **Spoken Word** – designed for performance.

Tip: Beginners often start with free Verse or simple rhyme schemes.

3. Outline the Structure

- **Title:** Choose something intriguing or symbolic.
- **Stanza 1 (Opening):** Introduce the scene, emotion, or idea.
- **Stanza 2 (Development):** Build on the theme with imagery metaphor.
- **Stanza 3 (Climax/Shift):** Introduce conflict, a twist, or realization.
- **Stanza 4 (Resolution/Closing):** Offer closure, a message, or a lingering question.

Adjust the number of stanzas or lines based on the form.

4. Use Poetic Devices

Incorporate these to add depth and beauty:

- **Imagery** – sensory descriptions.
- **Simile/Metaphor** – comparisons for symbolism.
- **Alliteration** – repeated consonant sounds.
- **Enjambment** – letting sentences flow over line breaks.

- **Rhyme/Rhythm** – optional, based on style.

5. Write the First Draft

- Focus on getting your emotions and ideas out.
- Don't worry about perfection yet.
- Let your lines break naturally based on emotion or Rhythm.

6. Revise and Edit

- Read aloud for flow and emotional impact.
- Remove clichés or filler words.
- Replace weak verbs or nouns with stronger ones.
- Consider line breaks and stanza organization.

7. Finalize the Presentation

- Check spelling and formatting.
- Consider whether capitalization and punctuation are consistent (or purposefully inconsistent for style).
- Think about how the poem appears on the page (visual layout matters too).

BONUS: Example Skeleton Poem Structure

Title: *When the Rain Sings Alone*

Stanza 1: The clouds wear silence like a shroud,

A single bird calls into the grey.

Stanza 2: Each drop knocks gently on my skin—

A whisper of things I didn't say.

Stanza 3: Lightning sketches my empty room,

The thunder speaks in riddles.

Stanza 4: Still, I wait, in storm-swept dreams,

For a voice that breaks the middle.