

Poetry Party

There are so many types of poems you can write. Here are details about three styles, to get you going on writing a poem or two. Let your imagination guide you.

n + 7

The n+7 technique was invented by French poets in the 1960s. Here's how to do it: find each noun (person, place or thing) in a piece of writing and replace it with the seventh noun after it in the dictionary. For example, 'elephant' would be replaced with 'elk' and 'fish' would become 'fist'.

Try applying the technique to something you've written and see how things change.

Haiku

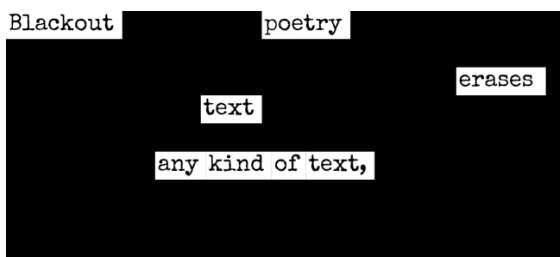
Haiku is an old form of poetry that comes from Japan. Haiku are short poems consisting of three lines totaling 17 syllables (five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line and five syllables in the third line). For example, here's a Haiku by Richard Wright:

*Whitecaps on the bay:
A broken signboard banging
In the April wind.*

If you're having trouble counting your syllables, see how many times your chin drops when you speak the words. This should tell you the number of syllables in the word.

Blackout Poetry

Blackout or erasure poetry uses texts that already exist. In this technique the writer goes through the text and blacks out, or erases, sections of the text leaving only the words that they would like to use in their new poem. You can use any kind of text, old magazines, or newspapers.



And here's a blackout poem made from an old magazine:

DEAR READER,



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Links to eResources:

[Poetry Books](#)

Read *Cat Named Haiku* by Mark Poulton, *Chicken Scratches* by George Shannon and Lynn Brunelle, and *Monster Lunch* by Pat Skene on Tumblebooks

Have fun learning about poetry by watching [Ish](#) and [Papa is a Poet](#) on Kanopy Kids.

You can get a library card at hpl.ca/online-card.

If you would like to share one or all your creations, please take a picture and post it to social media using the hashtag, #HPLmakesomething



#HPLmakesomething

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