


Verstory

A Look at the Past through Poetry

On the following pages is information about, and examples of, four different types of short poems. Your task is to write four poems – each of a different type – based on key issues and events from World War II.

Write a draft of each poem, have your drafts approved, and then “publish” your poems. Use Microsoft Word, Word Art, and appropriate graphics from the Internet to create a paper booklet of your poems, complete with a cover.




A **Quatrain** is a poem consisting of four rhymed lines. It one of the most common forms of poetry stanza.

Your quatrain is to have a rhyme scheme of ABAB. Notice in the example below that the first line rhymes with the third, and the second line rhymes with the fourth. Notice also that the lines that rhyme have a similar rhythm.

Miscalculation


*The Germans felt they were the best,
They didn't see how they could lose.
But our power rose up from the west,
And caused Germans the rethink their views!*



A Limerick has five lines and a rhyme scheme of *aabba*. Note also the rhythm. Lines 1, 2, and 5 have 8 syllables, and lines 2 and 3 have 5 syllables. For example:

Lend-Lease


*With Lend-Lease we sent Britain tanks,
For which they expressed their great thanks.
When forced to decide,
We joined Britain's side,
And sent not just tanks, we sent Yanks!*



A Clerihew is a short poem consisting of two rhyming couplets. It is always about a famous person, whose name forms one of the lines. Of course, since it is two couplets, the rhyme scheme is *aabb*. For example:

Dwight D. Eisenhower


*Was given control of Allied power.
His plans drove the Germans from the shore,
And helped make Europe free once more.*



An Acrostic is a verse where the opening letters of the lines, or the closing letters, or letters arrived at by some other system, name a person or convey a special message. For example:

D-Day

*In June 1944, the Allies invaded
Normandy in France.
Victory was in sight as the
Armies stormed the beaches.
Shells from the shore batteries couldn't stop them.
Intense in their belief that they were
On the right side, the soldiers waded ashore,
Never wavering, never retreating.*




A LanVan is a five-line poem about a famous person or thing. It has a very specific form that must be followed.

- Line 1: Identify the subject, then write
- Line 2*: a metaphor appropriate to the subject,
- Line 3*: a simile appropriate to the subject,
- Lines 4 & 5: a rhyming couplet about the subject's significance.

(*Lines 2 and 3 may switch positions!)

For example:

Douglas MacArthur
American Caesar.
Like an avenging angel,
He led us to victory in the Pacific.
His plans for each battle were very specific.



A Wingspark is a type of poetry “invented” by students at Wings Park School. It has five lines, does not rhyme, and has some very special requirements. Each line has a very specific purpose. Study the form below carefully.

- Line 1: “I dreamed...” (A Wingspark *always* begins with these words!)
- Line 2: Answer the question, “Who?” (Identify someone!)
- Line 3: Answer the question, “Where?” (Name a place!)
- Line 4: State an action (Tell something that the person in line 2 did!)
- Line 5: One word to describe how the person felt or how the action was performed. (Usually this word will end with the letters “ly.”)

For example:

Invasion

I dreamed...
I was a soldier
In France,
Storming the beach on D-Day,
Courageously.

