

# The short story and poem: a comparison of literary forms

Literature



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This provokes the interest of the reader who otherwise might be discouraged by longer literary devices such as the novel. Both forms of literary construction need to deliver their meaning as succinctly as possible. Given the size of short stories and poems, readers are encouraged to take on these literary pieces (Head, 2006). On the other hand, short stories and poems are different in their use of rhyme and rhythm. Poems use rhythm in order to deliver meaning while short stories have no such options. For example, Emily Dickinson's *I'm Nobody! Who Are You?* delivers much the same meaning as many a short story on the lack of identity in a mechanized life. However, the short stories that deal with this theme use no rhythm of any kind at all in their words. Additionally, poems use the iambic pentameter to gain greater appeal with the audience. The use of alternating syllables provides for greater absorption when compared to a short story of any kind. This structure tends to make poems more attractive and impressionist in the mind of the reader.