

Learn traditional poetry essay sample

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“ Traditional poetry”- applies to the classical forms in rhyme, meter, and language. The later Modernist or Postmodernist forms have the spirit and content of poetry, but lack the traditional organization. Critics of free verse and other forms often allude to traditional forms as “ proper poetry”.

Characteristics of Traditional Poetry

Rhyme scheme – organized patterns of rhyme in poetry. Not all poems have rhyme, however.

Meter – the rhythm or “ pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in the lines of a poem.

Alliteration – repeating of beginning consonant sounds

“ Creamy and crunchy”

Assonance – repetition of vowel sounds.

Till the shining scythes went far and wide

And cut it down to dry

Consonance – repetition of consonant sounds anywhere in the words.

The sailor sings of ropes and things

In ships upon the seas

End rhyme – rhyming of words at the ends of two or more lines of poetry

She always had to burn a light

Beside her attic bed at night

Internal rhyme – rhyming of words within one line of poetry

Jack Sprat could eat no fator

Peter Peter pumpkin eater

Onomatopoeia – use of a word whose sound makes you think of its meaning
buzz, gunk, gushy, swish, zigzag, zing, zip

Repetition – repeating of a word or phrase to add rhythm or to emphasize an Idea.

Suddenly there came a tapping, as of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

Stanza – a division in a poem named for the number of lines it contains

Couplet – two lines
Sestet – six lines

Triplet – three lines
Septet – seven lines

Quatrain – four lines
Octave – eight lines

Forms of Traditional Poetry

Ballad – a poem which tells a story

– Ballad of Davy Crockett

Blank Verse – unrhymed poetry with meter. The lines are 10 syllables in length. Every other syllable, beginning with the second syllable is accented.

Elegy – a poem which states a poet's sadness about the death of an

important person. Epic – a long story which describes the adventures of a

hero. Free Verse – poetry which does not require meter or a rhyme scheme.

Haiku – type of Japanese poetry which presents a picture of nature. A haiku poem is three lines in length. The first line is five syllables; the second,

seven; and the third, five. Limerick – short sometimes bawdy, humorous

poems consisting of five anapestic lines. Lines 1, 2, and 5 of a limerick

have seven to ten syllables and rhyme with one another. Lines 3 and 4 have

five to seven syllables and also rhyme with each other. Ode – long poem that

is deep in feeling and imagery and is dedicated to a person or a thing. Begins with " Ode to _____" Sonnet -fourteen line poem which states a poet's personal feelings. Follows a set rhyme scheme.