Acrostic

In acrostic poems, the first letter of each line spells out the subject of the poem. This cool form is read the usual way, but also vertically, down the side of the page.

Model poem: "Things That Annoy Me" by Katie McCain (page 86)

Concrete Poem

Concrete poems are shapely. The words of the poem form the shape of whatever the poem is about. We read the poem, but we also see it.

Model poem: "Lucky Hat" by Ben Kidwell (page 26)

Diamante

Diamantes are seven-line poems. They are named for the diamond shape they make when centered on a page. Poets start with two nouns that are opposites ("Summer" and "Winter") or two words that are related ("Cold" and "Ice").

Line 1: Noun

Line 2: Two adjectives about the noun in line 1

Line 3: Three "-ing" verbs that show the noun in action

Line 4: Four nouns or a short phrase that link line 1 to line 7

Line 5: Three "-ing" verbs that show the last word of the poem in action

Line 6: Two adjectives about the noun in line 7

Line 7: Noun (synonym or antonym of line 1)

Model poem: "Valentine Diamante" by Rachel Chieko Stein (page 135)

Epistolary Poem

Epistolary means "written as a letter."

Model poem: "Anything" by Sydney Costley (page 80)

List Poem

People have been making list poems for thousands of years. Lists are a great way to create a poem. Starting with a list makes the poet focus on objects or events instead of ideas. Many list poems use repetition, a word or phrase that emphasizes the theme of the list.

Model poem: "Top Ten Things That Stink When Your Father Dies" by Mark Fernandez (page 20)

Narrative Poem

Narrative poems tell a story or describe an event. They are often written in free verse.

Model poem: "New at the Newseum" by Sloane Costley (page 45)

Ode

Odes are poems of celebration that date back to ancient Greece, when poets would write verses praising Olympic champions. Modern poets use odes, which are usually written in free verse, to praise normal people, places, and objects. After all, your favorite aunt deserves just as much attention as a superstar athlete.

Model poem: "Ode to My Mom" by Rennie Rawlins (page 186)

Rap Poem

Like poets, rappers use rhythm and rhyme in their lyrics to get their point across. Rap poems often have short lines, which give the poem a quick rhythm. The rhymes might not always fall at the end of a line. Rap poems can be less formal and sound more like everyday speech than some other poems do.

Model poem: "Time Capsule Rap" by Edgar Lee Jones (page 78)

Taken from Laura Shovan's *The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary*

Rhyming Poem	Senryu	Sonnet	Tanka
There are many ways for poems to rhyme. The most common are rhymed couplets (two rhymed lines), tercets (three rhymed lines), or quatrains (four rhymed lines). Rhymes can add humor to a poem. *Model poem: "I Know This One" by Rajesh Rao (page 16)*	Senryu poems follow haiku form, but they do not have to be about nature. Often, senryu focus on human nature. *Model poem: "Senryu: Shoshanna Says" by Rachel Chieko Stein (page 95)*	The sonnet is a traditional form poem with fourteen lines. English (or Shakespearean) sonnets have a rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. Sonnets are sometimes used to make an argument. *Model poem: "Field Trip" by Edgar Lee Jones (page 44)*	Tanka is another form poem from Japan. The rules for tanka might remind you of haiku, with two extra lines. An American tanka looks like this: Line 1: 5 syllables Line 2: 7 syllables Line 3: 5 syllables Line 4: 7 syllables Line 5: 7 syllables Because Japanese isn't written like English, it's more important to make the lines short/long/short/long/long than it is to count syllables. Tanka have two halves, the upper part (that looks like a haiku) and a lower part (the last long/long lines). Usually, the upper poem focuses on description and the lower poem adds a comment or observation. *Model poem: "Mr. White Tanka Poem" by Newt Mathews (page 37)*

Taken from Laura Shovan's *The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary*

Fib (Fibonacci Poem)

Fibs are a new form of poem, invented by author Gregory K. Pinkus. By counting syllables, Fibs follow the Fibonacci sequence of numbers. It's easy to do. Start with 0 (an empty line). Then 1 (a one-syllable word). Add them together to get your next line: 0+1=1 syllable. Keep adding the last two numbers together to get the next number in the sequence. In nature, Fibonacci numbers make a spiral like the ones formed in a nautilus shell. In a poem, the sequence looks like this:

Empty line: 0 syllables

Line 1: 1 syllable

Line 2: 0+1=1 syllable

Line 3: 1+1=2 syllables

Line 4: 1+2=3 syllables

Line 5: 2+3=5 syllables

Line 6: 3+5=8 syllables

Line 7: 5+8=13 syllables

Model poem: "Two Fibonacci Poems" by Newt Mathews (page 61)

Found Poem

Found poems were not originally meant to be poems. They can be grocery lists, homework assignments, or other scraps of writing. It's the poet who finds rhythm or imagery in a found poem. By rearranging the original writing, the poet can make the words look and sound like a poem.

Model poem: "My Speech" by George Furst (page 189)

Haiku

Haiku is a Japanese form of unrhymed poetry. Haiku describe scenes in nature. They include a kigo word, a symbol that lets the reader know what season the poet is writing about. You may have learned to count syllables when writing a haiku: 5-7-5. But Japanese is not written or read left to right, the way English is. Instead of counting syllables, aim for lines that have a short-long-short rhythm.

Model poem: "Two Haiku" by Newt Mathews (page 19)

Limerick

A limerick is a form poem most often used to tell a quick joke. Limericks have five lines with a rhyme scheme of AABBA. A rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhymes that appears in a poem. Each rhyming sound is assigned a different letter of the alphabet. In a limerick, the rhyme scheme looks like this:

A LIMERICK

There once was a girl named McCain, (A)

who sat next to someone insane. (A)

He thought is was cool (B)

to act like a fool, (B)

but his poems gave her a migraine. (A)

Limericks also have a rhythm of stressed and unstressed syllables. If you CLAP the stressed syllables and snap the unstressed syllables, it would sound like this:

Line 1: snap CLAP snap snap CLAP snap snap CLAP

Line 2: snap CLAP snap snap CLAP snap snap CLAP

Line 3: snap CLAP snap snap CLAP

Line 4: snap CLAP snap snap CLAP

Line 5: snap CLAP snap snap CLAP snap snap CLAP

Model poem: "A Limerick" by Katie McCain (page 60)

Taken from Laura Shovan's *The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary*