Patterns in poems

Read the following poem aloud, then answer the questions.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling
The wind is passing thro’.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads
The wind is passing by.

Christina Rossetti

How many verses (or stanzas) are there in this poem?

Find the rhyming pairs of words in the poem. Write them here.

Read aloud the poem, listen to the rhythm and count the syllables. Write the number of syllables in each line of the poem here.

line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4

line 5 line 6 line 7 line 8

Write your own poem about another type of weather in the same style.

Haiku and cinquain

Read these two poems aloud.

Haiku
Poem in three lines:
Five syllables, then seven,
Five again; no rhyme.

Eric Finney

Cinquain
Cinquain:
A short verse form
Of counted syllables...
And first devised by Adelaide Crapsey.

Gerard Benson

Write your own haiku about wind. Remember to use the correct number of syllables in each line.

Wind

syllables: 5    7    5

Now write a cinquain. Use the same number of syllables in each line as in the cinquain above.

Wind

syllables: 2    4    6    8    2

How many verses (or stanzas) are there in this poem?

Find the rhyming pairs of words in the poem. Write them here.

Read aloud the poem, listen to the rhythm and count the syllables. Write the number of syllables in each line of the poem here.

line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4

line 5 line 6 line 7 line 8

Write your own poem about another type of weather in the same style.
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Christina Rossetti

How many verses (or stanzas) are there in this poem?
The poem has 2 verses (or stanzas).

Find the rhyming pairs of words in the poem. Write them here.
you – thro’, I – by

Read aloud the poem, listen to the rhythm and count the syllables.
Write the number of syllables in each line of the poem here.

line 1: 5
line 2: 7
line 3: 7/8
line 4: 6

line 5: 5
line 6: 5
line 7: 8
line 8: 6

Write your own poem about another type of weather in the same style.

Here, your child learns to recognise and appreciate different forms of poetry. Point out that while both poems are about the wind, they were written by different poets. Encourage your child to read with expression and to listen for the words that rhyme.

Haiku and cinquain

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Haiku
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Cinquain
Cinquain:
A short verse form
Of counted syllables ...
And first devised by Adelaide Crapsey.

Write your own haiku about wind.
Remember to use the correct number of syllables in each line.
syllables: 5
7
5
1

Now write a cinquain. Use the same number of syllables in each line as in the cinquain above.
syllables: 2
4
6
8
2

On this page, the task is for your child to write two poems following the forms of a haiku and a cinquain. The most important point for your child to understand is that both poems have a set number of syllables in each line.

Answers:

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