

# Poetry Activity Handout: Poetic Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Lyric poetry is poetry that expresses the observations and feelings of a single speaker. Odes, sonnets, elegies, monologues, and songs are all forms of lyric poetry.
- Ode: A formal lyric poem—honoring a person or thing—that has a serious theme and typically commemorates an event or responds to a scene in nature.
- A villanelle is a poem containing five 3-line stanzas and a 4-line stanza with 2 refrains.
- A sonnet is a fourteen-line lyric poem with a single theme. Sonnets vary, but they are usually written in rhymed iambic pentameter, following one of two traditional patterns: Petrarchan/Italian or Shakespearean/English.
- Elegy: A solemn and formal lyric poem about death. It may mourn a particular person or reflect on a serious or tragic theme, such as the passing of youth, beauty, or a way of life.

**Directions:** Use the chart below to note some of the characteristics of the poem or poems that you are reading. Then, indicate what form each poem represents. Be as specific as possible when indicating the form.

Form	Example from Poem	Explanation
Villanelle	"Do not go gentle into that good night!"	This phrase begins the poem and appears at the end of three of the poem's stanzas. Its repetition emphasizes the poem's theme and the tone of the poem's speaker.

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