

POETRY WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

PRESENTED BY WITCH CITY WRITERS

THE STRUCTURE OF POETRY

•Rhyme Scheme

A poem doesn't always have to rhyme.
When it does, the rhymes often appear in patterns.
On the next page poem template, the letters A, B, C, D represent lines that rhyme.

•Stanzas

Groups of lines are called "stanzas" in poetry.
In Hawthorne's poem at right, he has 4 stanzas of 4 lines each.
Some poems don't have stanzas. They just flow straight.

•Words

Poems generally have the same amount of words per line.
In poetry, words can have a double meaning.

•Meter

Rhythmic pattern to stress/not stress words

Now that you know a bit about poetry and read a poem about the ocean, try writing an ocean poem of your own.

On the next page, you'll find a blank area with a suggested rhyming pattern. Feel free to use that rhyming pattern or make up one of your own.

Or, if you're not feeling very rhyme-y, don't worry. Remember, poems don't always rhyme!

Check out the inspiration bank on the right to find a few ocean-related words that might spark an idea or two.

Once you have one poem under your belt, change topics and try a new one. You can write a poem about anything!

THE OCEAN

By Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Ocean has its silent caves,
Deep, quiet, and alone;
Though there be fury on the waves,
Beneath them there is none.

The awful spirits of the deep
Hold their communion there;
And there are those for whom we weep,
The young, the bright, the fair.

Calmly the wearied seamen rest
Beneath their own blue sea.
The ocean solitudes are blest,
For there is purity.

The earth has guilt, the earth has care,
Unquiet are its graves;
But peaceful sleep is ever there,
Beneath the dark blue waves.

INSPIRATION BANK

deep caves blue waves
solitudes communion quiet
peaceful bright beneath

SALEM HARBOR FUN FACTS

- In 1790, Salem Harbor was a world-famous seaport—the sixth-largest in the USA.
- **Salem is second deepest port in Massachusetts.**
- There are three lighthouses in Salem: Derby Wharf Light, Fort Pickering Light, and Baker's Island Light.

MY POEM

(TITLE)

By _____

_____A

_____B

_____A

_____B

_____C

_____D

_____C

_____D

RESOURCES

The House of the Seven Gables

www.7gables.org

Salem National Historic Site

www.nps.gov/sama

New England Aquarium

www.neaq.org

National Geographic Kids – Ocean Facts!

www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/ocean-facts/

Poems for Kids

www.poets.org/poems-kids

Poetry Foundation

www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children

About Witch City Writers Group

Representing all genres, we share writing and offer peer feedback at workshops, write-ins, community events, & happy hours held several times per month in Salem and Beverly.

www.meetup.com/Witch-City-Writers-Group