

# Poetry

## 1. Sound Poems

### The Supermarket

Trolleys banging,  
Mammies talking,  
Music playing,  
Babies crying,  
Registers ringing,  
I want to go home.

## 2. Acrostics

Each sentence starts with a letter that spells out the title.

### Granny

Gardening all of the time  
Rubs my knee when I fall  
And makes yummy food  
Never yells at me,  
Never complains,  
Yes I love my granny.

## 3. Rhyming Couplets

For each set of two sentences, the last words rhyme.

### Examples:

Humpty Dumpty went to the *shop*  
To buy himself a *lollipop*

I like *jam*  
With a piece of *ham*

## Oceans of Fun

Welcome to my island home, Fiji.  
I love the world beneath the sea.

Our beach has lots of soft smooth sand,  
with pretty shells to hold in your hand.

Under the ocean waves we will see,  
Beautiful corals and fishes free.

Sea stars watch fish playing in schools,  
darting in and out, while we are cool.

Graceful manta-rays float by,  
with flippers like wings, they seem to fly.

They pass pretty pearls in oyster shells,  
sparkly treasures we love so well.

Beyond the shore in the deep blue sea,  
the turtles swim so peacefully.

## 4. Free Poems

Poems don't always have to rhyme.

### I Like Nature

Flowers come with nature.

Trees come with nature.

We come with nature.

## 5. Colour Poems

### Black

Black is my cat

Black is burnt wood

Black is the night sky

## 6. Adjective Poems

Repeat the title three times on the first and last lines of the poem

Choose adjectives to begin the lines in between.

### Sailing

Sailing, sailing, sailing

Silently sailing,

Swiftly sailing,

Surely sailing

Sailing, sailing, sailing

## 7. Limericks

In a castle that had a deep moat

Lived a chicken a duck and a goat.

They wanted to go out

And wander about

But they didn't have a boat.

## 8. Cinquains

These poems have five lines:

Line 1: 1 noun

Line 2: 2 related adjectives

Line 3: 3 descriptive gerunds (verb + -ing)

Line 4: 1 complete, related sentence

Line 5: 1 noun (a synonym of first noun)

### Example: War

War

Sad, destructive

Killing, injuring, destroying

A thing that kills life.

Terminator

## 9. Haiku

This is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. The first two lines make a statement and in the final line these two statements are combined.

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

### Example:

Falling to the ground

I watch a leaf settle down

In a bed of brown

## Poems by Patience Strong [1907-1990]

Patience Strong was the pen name for the UK writer Winifred Emma May. She wrote many poems of encouragement in the Daily Mirror during World War 2.

### Passing the Test

To everyone a gift is given and a problem set.

There's a mission to fulfill, a challenge to be met...

A special work to carry out that no one else can do--

A task to be accomplished, and to this we must be true.

Do not envy anyone because they seem to be --

Lucky, happy, and content, from care and worry free ...

Everybody is on trial in their appointed sphere

A smiling face may mask an ugly scar, a secret fear.

Covet nothing, envy none, for all have things to bear

Everything is balanced, God is good and life is fair ...

Who has had the worst of it and who has had the best--

None can say, for each must pass his individual test.

### If You Stand Very Still

If you stand very still in the heart of a forest

You will hear many wonderful things;

The snap of a twig and the wind in the trees,

And the whirr of invisible wings.

If you stand very still and hold to your faith

You will get all the help that you ask;

You will draw from the silence the things that you need,

Hope and courage and strength for your task.

### **The Faith That Moves the Mountains**

When you know not where to turn,  
Stay still, just where you are. There is something yet to learn.  
Be careful lest you unravel the threads that fate is weaving  
In a pattern you can't see.  
Be still.

Trust the Hand that works the looms of destiny.  
Though it is your wish to set things right and put things straight,  
Choose the wiser way. Have faith.  
With patience watch and wait.  
There's a purpose in it all, as time will surely prove  
And when you least expect it, you will see the mountain move.

### **The Way You Think**

Whatever your job is,  
Do it well and conscientiously.  
Whatever your task is,  
Do it gladly, cheerfully, thoroughly.  
Do not grumble if you have to do an extra bit.

Do whatever comes to hand and take a pride in it.

Whether it is interesting or the usual grind.  
Always try to bring it a freshness of the mind.  
Work can be enjoyable or just the opposite.  
It will all depend upon the way you think of it.

### **Unity**

We depend upon each other, each one in his own small way,  
Giving something of himself in terms of service day by day,  
Working for his own reward, yet adding to the common good.  
Half our troubles would be ended if this truth were understood.  
We are bound by unseen cords and everything we say and do –  
Tends to help or harm another.  
So let us try then to pursue  
Nothing that would cause division, hate, unrest or jealousy  
All our lives are interwoven. On each other we rely.  
Brain and brawn must work together, letting ancient grudges die.  
At the desk and at the plough, in mine and mill and factory.  
All are needed in the drive for peace and for prosperity.

## **The Tides of Providence**

It's not what you gather, but what you sow,  
That gives the heart a warming glow.  
It's not what you get, but what you give,  
Decides the kind of life you live.

It's not what you have, but what you spare.  
It's not what you take, but what you share  
That pays the greater dividend  
And makes you richer in the end.

It's not what you spend upon yourself  
Or hide away upon a shelf,  
That brings a blessing for the day.  
It's what you scatter by the way.

A wasted effort it may seem.  
But what you cast upon the stream  
Comes back to you recompense  
Upon the tides of providence.

## **Little Things**

We sometimes get impatient doing simple little things,  
Like stitching buttons, washing clothes - the small tasks that life  
brings  
We think we're wasting precious time and grumble terribly,  
Because we think we're fitted for a higher destiny.

But God did not despise the doing of the tiny things.  
He must have spent a lot of time on making flowers and wings.  
He made the mountains and the seas, the whirling worlds on high.  
And yet He deigned to make the ant, the bee, the butterfly.  
The spider and the snowflake and the smallest bird that sings.  
So surely we with grace and care can do - the little things.

**Poems by Bill Davidson** (written 1977)

**Consider these things**

Consider these things...

Consider the insects, so small, so delicate

Consider the ant: so organised, so incredibly strong!

Who or what controls them? How are their tiny legs made?

Can they think, plan, enjoy?

Consider these things...

Consider the flowers of the fields,

The trees in the orchard,

The mighty pines in the forest that seem to touch the sky.

Why do they grow toward the light?

How do they know to stretch their roots toward the water?

Are they clever? Do they think and plan for themselves?

How do they live for hundreds of years?

Consider these things...

Consider the birds of the air:

The tiny hummingbird with wings too fast for the eye to see,

The graceful dove that flies in peaceful places,

The mighty eagle who circles above the mountain ranges...

How did these machines called birds get made?

Did they just happen or were they planned?

Were they designed to fly or did they just decide to do so?

Consider these things...

Consider yourself: Consider your fingers, your joints

You are incredibly well made! You are a miracle of engineering!

The blood in your body races around sixty thousand miles of veins.

There are over a million tiny parts in your eye.

Did you have a designer, or did you happen by chance?

You have intelligence – You can choose correctly, and you can make a wrong choice.

You know the difference between right and wrong.

At least you can choose to be loving and choose the highest good for another human being.

Is intelligent love an accident of evolution?

Consider these things...

In life there is but one great question to answer –

Did all this beautiful creation happen by chance?

Did it all appear out of nowhere?

Did nothing become something and grow into something great?

Consider the car...

Is a car designed or does it just grow?  
Do we take journeys by chance, without any idea of the way ahead?  
Or do we decide together which is the best plan for the journey?  
There can be only one answer-  
That which lives in an order needs a plan;  
That which is beautifully designed needs a designer;  
That which can show intelligent love is not the result of an accident.  
There are but two things to do:  
Cover your eyes – cover your ears – cover everything but your  
conscience  
And say, “There is no God.”  
Or, humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God.  
Do not lean on your own understanding,  
In all things acknowledge Him...  
Rise, stand, worship  
Consider these things.

### **Hands**

Hands ... God gave us hands...That we might create.  
Hands to love, to give, hands to help, and defend.

God gave us hands,  
But we have used these hands to destroy.  
Hands that should love, now hate.  
Hands made to give, now grab.  
Hands made to help, now hold back.  
Where they should defend, they attack!  
God reached out His hands of love to a world destroying itself,  
And embraced His whole creation with the hands of healing.  
We nailed those hands to a cross, and said, “Stay there, God!”  
But He didn’t, and He won’t.  
He walks the streets of the world today, His scared hands open,  
Waiting...longing...for whoever will come.  
God has a remedy for his rebel creation. His name is Jesus.  
What will you do with Jesus?  
Try not to hear? Try not to see?  
His truth remains the same.  
Will your hands embrace Him, or refuse Him?  
You have a choice:  
Hold onto your life, or hand it over to God.  
What will you do?

## Poems of encouragement

**Don't Quit** by Edgar A. Guest

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit -  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns.

As everyone of us sometimes learns.

And many a fellow turns about

When he might have won had he stuck it out.

Don't give up though the pace seems slow -

You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than it seems

To a faint and faltering man;

Often the struggler has given up

When he might have captured the victor's cup;

And he learned too late when the night came down,

How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -

The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,

And when you never can tell how close you are,

It may be near when it seems afar;

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -

It's when things seem worst, you must not quit.

**Life Is Patience** by Julie Hebert 2012

To live how we want,

And to do what we please.

Can sometimes be tough,

And not done with great ease.

Life works in many ways,

Some good and some bad.

Which stops us in our tracks,

And makes us really mad.



We can't all get,  
What we want right away.  
And waiting is needed,  
To show us the way.

So learn the lesson now,  
That some never learn.  
Waiting patiently,  
Will allow you your turn.

**Attitude** by Charles Swindoll

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts.  
It is more important than the past, than education,  
Than money, than circumstances,  
Than failures, than successes, than what others think or say or do.  
It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill.  
  
It will make or break a company... a church... a home.  
The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding  
The attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change the inevitable.  
The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have,  
And that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me,  
And 90% how I react to it.  
And so it is with you...  
We are in charge of our attitudes.

**It Doesn't Cost a Cent** by D. W. Moore

One of the many essential things  
That make our lives worthwhile;  
(Though it cost the least of all)  
Is a happy and pleasant smile.

A smile bubbling from the heart  
Of our friends or fellowmen,  
Will drive the clouds of gloom away  
And bring the sunshine again.

Its special power, how great and good;  
Like an arrow to the heart is sent;  
It's more valuable than silver or gold,  
Yet it doesn't cost a cent.

### **You Are Richer Today**

You are richer today than you were yesterday  
if you have laughed often,  
given something,  
forgiven even more,  
made a new friend today, or  
made stepping stones of stumbling-blocks;  
if you have thought more in terms of "yourself" than of "myself" or  
if you have succeeded in being cheerful even if you were weary.

You are richer tonight than you were this morning  
if you have taken time to trace the handiwork of God in the  
commonplace things of life, or  
if you have learned to count out things that really do not count, or  
if you have been a little blinder to the faults of friend or foe.

You are richer if a little child has smiled at you,  
and a stray dog has licked your hand, or  
if you have looked for the best in others,  
and have given others the best in you.

### **One Question** by Julie Hebert, © 2012

Every single day we should ask,  
Ourselves an important question.  
What goals will we complete today,  
That will end in a happy expression?

Goals are so very important in life,  
In order to continue to grow.  
You can only become someone important,  
If you first believe it so.

Creating goals that will better your life,  
Is how one can become who they want to be.  
So trust in yourself that you are enough,  
And soon you will be able to see.

So ask yourself where you want to go,  
Then create goals that will get you there.  
Take each goal as a single step,  
And this is how you will prepare.

**Be Yourself** by Catherine Pulsifer

Be yourself  
Not someone else  
Whatever you do  
Don't pretend you're not you.

When you try to be someone you're not  
You will fail no matter how much you got  
No matter how hard you try  
It will catch up with you by and by

Living life and being you  
Will make things so much easier too  
As we all have strengths and weaknesses  
Focus on the strengths to bring out the greatness.