

What Makes a Poem?

1. Line Length

Short lines = dramatic

Long lines = emotional

2. Precision

Avoid overuse of articles such as “the” and “and.”

3. Use of Imagery

Draw a picture using words. Incorporate your senses. (See “tips” below.)

4. Use of Simile

Comparison using “like” or “as”

Ex: Your smile is like sunshine.

5. Use of Metaphor

Comparison that does not use “like” or “as”

Ex: His burden is a mountain of thorns.

Tips for Writing Poems

Use Memory/Senses

What does it smell like?

What does it sound like?

What do you hear?

What does it taste like?

What colors do you see?

How are you feeling in that moment or place?

What does that feeling remind you of?

When stuck, free write

- List words that connect to what you want to write without trying to make it in a poem
- Relax, release expectations of yourself and the “product”
- Come back to it later, this may not be the time to write