

MINI POETRY GUIDE FOR KIDS

Triolet Poetry



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WHAT IS A TRIOLET?

Triolets are a delightful, though lesser-known, style of poetry that emphasize both rhyme and repetition. They are always 8 line poems with a very specific rhyme scheme: ABaAabAB.

1. A
2. B
3. a (Rhymes with 1st line.)
4. A (Identical to 1st line.)
5. a (Rhymes with 1st line.)
6. b (Rhymes with 2nd line.)
7. A (Identical to 1st line.)
8. B (Identical to 2nd line.)

The poetry collection *The Wild Woods* includes three triolets. Go ahead and read the poem featured below, and see if you can identify the triolet rhyme scheme!

On My Rock

Sometimes I go sit on my rock
To think and watch . . . and think some more.
When I don't really want to talk,
Sometimes I go sit on my rock
And watch the way the little bugs walk
As they traverse the forest floor.
Sometimes I go sit on my rock
To think and watch . . . and think some more.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
POETRY COLLECTION THE
WILD WOODS HERE

PATRICK CARY

An English Poet named Patrick Cary wrote the earliest known triolets in the English language in the 1650s. His poems were devotional in their style; he focused on praise and worship. He never received much attention during his lifetime and his poems were not published until the 18th century.

You can read one of his beautiful triolets below. Isn't it incredible that even after all these centuries, we can still read the words of those who came before us?

Triolet I

Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell!
Farewell all earthly joys and cares!
On nobler thoughts my soul shall dwell,
Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell!
At quiet, in my peaceful cell,
I'll think on God, free from your snares;
Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell!
Farewell all earthly joys and cares.

by Patrick Cary

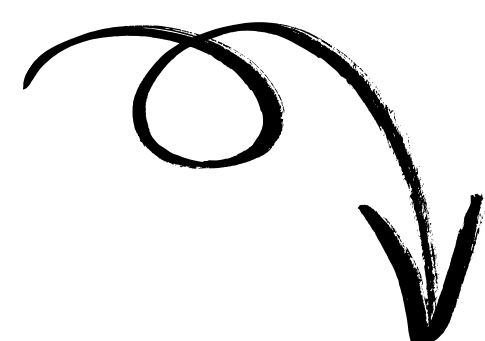
Now that you've read it once to enjoy it, let's see if you can correctly label the rhyme scheme! Write A, B, a, or b next to each line. (Hint: see the previous page!)

Triolet I

Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell! ____
Farewell all earthly joys and cares! ____
On nobler thoughts my soul shall dwell, ____
Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell! ____
At quiet, in my peaceful cell, ____
I'll think on God, free from your snares; ____
Worldly designs, fears, hopes, farewell! ____
Farewell all earthly joys and cares. ____

by Patrick Cary

COMPLETE THE POETRY COPYWORK ON THE
FOLLOWING 2 PAGES



Triplet III

Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so;
No joys but thine are purely sweet;
Other delights come mixt with woe,
Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so.

Pleasure at courts is but in show,
With true content in cells we meet;
Yes, my dear Lord, I've found it so;
No joys but thine are purely sweet.

by Patrick Cary

[illegible]

On My Rock

Sometimes I go sit on my rock
To think and watch . . . and think some more.
When I don't really want to talk,
Sometimes I go sit on my rock
And watch the way the little bugs walk
As they traverse the forest floor.
Sometimes I go sit on my rock
To think and watch . . . and think some more.

by Kersten Lindhardt

[illegible]

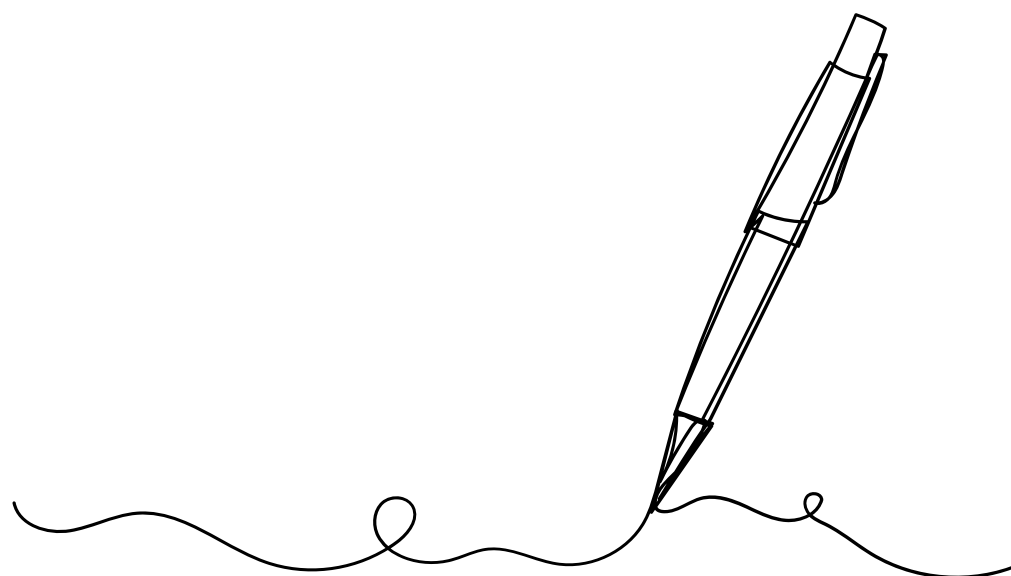
WRITE YOUR OWN TRIOLET:

Now it's time to try writing some of your own triolets! Here are some tips to help you get started:

- Make sure you track how many syllables are in each line of your triolet. Typically, there are 8 syllables per line in a triolet, but you can do as many or few syllables as you like. It is a good idea to make sure you use the same syllable count consistently throughout your poem. (For example, you could choose to have each line have 8 syllables. Or 6! Or 9! It's up to you.)
- Look around you! Some of the best things to write poems about are right before your eyes. List things you regularly see, such as family members, things in nature, or even a favorite stuffed animal. You could even be like Patrick Cary, and write a poem about your faith.
- Make a list of memories you could use to write a poem about.
- Don't worry if you don't like the first triolet you think of. Sometimes you immediately love what you think of, and other times it can take a while to come up with just the right words.
- You could use a notebook to scribble all your good triolet ideas in!
- As a reminder, here in the rhyme scheme pattern for a triolet: ABaAabAB.

1. A
2. B
3. a (Rhymes with 1st line.)
4. A (Identical to 1st line.)
5. a (Rhymes with 1st line.)
6. b (Rhymes with 2nd line.)
7. A (Identical to 1st line.)
8. B (Identical to 2nd line.)

You can use the lines on the following page to write your poem. The space above can be used to draw an illustration that compliments your triolet!



I D E A S F O R P R E S E R V I N G Y O U R P O E T R Y

- Write your poem on a blank sheet of paper and then decorate it any way you please. You could add a border, draw a picture, or dress it up with stickers. Think about other ways you could decorate it.
- Make a poetry binder where you can save your poems so they don't get scattered everywhere or thrown away or lost.
- Keep a poetry journal where you record poems you have written.
- With the help and permission of an adult, create and save a document on your computer so you can always find them.

I D E A S F O R S H A R I N G Y O U R P O E T R Y

- Do you have friends or family members who you know would enjoy your poem? Consider sending them a copy in the mail.
- Memorize your poem so you can tell it to a friend or share it at a family gathering.
- Have a poetry tea time with your family, and share your poems while you enjoy a tea time together.
- Write a poem as a gift for someone you love. You could write it on a card for them or even put it in a small picture frame.

