Choose one of the topics below for a poem. You could also use these ideas to help you brainstorm your own topics. Then write a poem to express an idea, create an impression, or inspire and delight readers.

- Write a poem about a time when you felt proud or brave. Vividly describe the situation and share the emotions you experienced.
- Write a poem describing a place you like to visit. Be sure to express the emotions you feel when you think of this place.
- Write a poem about a time when you were afraid to do something at first. Describe the situation, the fear you faced, and how you overcame that fear.
- Write a poem describing your favorite season, food, animal, color, or insect. Express why it is your favorite.
- Write a poem about something funny that happened recently. Vividly describe the situation that made you laugh.
- Write a poem telling what happens when you suddenly get a super power, such as the ability to fly, to camouflage like a chameleon, or to disappear.
- Write an ode in which you praise or celebrate a person, an ordinary object, or a place.
- Write an ode in which you celebrate an achievement or a special relationship.
- Write an ode to an amazing animal, bird, or insect.
- Write an ode to a delicious fruit, vegetable, meal, or dessert.
- Write an ode to a childhood toy, hiding place, or friend.
- Write a narrative poem that tells about a historical event, a startling dream, or a family legend.
- Write a narrative poem about a time when you “saved the day.”
- Write a narrative poem about something you did that took a lot of nerve.
- Write a narrative poem retelling your favorite story, TV show, or movie.
- Write a narrative poem about a time when you stood up for your beliefs.
- Write a sonnet about love or war.
- Write a sonnet about change or hardship.
- Write a sonnet about a thought you’ve had about life.
- Write a sonnet about one person or about people in general.
- Write a sonnet about your favorite sport, music, artwork, movie, or book.
- Write a ballad about a time you experienced a great success.
- Write a ballad about a time you failed at something but learned a valuable lesson.
- Write a ballad about a time you witnessed a public event, such as the launch of a satellite.
- Write a ballad about a memorable sporting event or concert you attended.
- Write a ballad about the last time you went to the dentist.
## Writing Traits for Poetry

Ask yourself these questions throughout the writing process.

| Ideas | Does my poem have a clear focus on one topic?  
|       | Do I use poetic techniques to convey emotions or ideas?  
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<th>Is my chosen speaker appropriate for the ideas, events, or emotions I am conveying?</th>
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|       | Am I planning my writing by organizing details in a graphic organizer, a list, an outline, or notes?  
|       | Is my poem organized in stanzas, when appropriate?  
|       | Do the lines show a consistent rhythm?  
|       | Do I use free verse, or do I use rhyme, rhythm, and meter?  
|       | Are the story events told in chronological order? |
| Voice | Does the voice reveal my attitude toward the subject?  
|       | Does the voice engage the reader’s interest?  
|       | Is the tone lively, inspiring, engaging, emotional, or interesting? |
| Word Choice | Do I use sensory details to make my images vivid?  
|             | Do I use poetic techniques, such as repetition, simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, and personification?  
|             | Do I use rhyming words if I'm writing a rhyming poem?  
|             | Are my words and phrases precise? |
| Sentence Fluency | Do I use a variety of sentence types and lengths?  
|                  | Are my sentences concise?  
|                  | Do I use linking words and phrases to connect ideas and help the lines flow?  
|                  | Does the story flow from line to line in the rhythm and rhyme that I want, if I’m writing a rhyming poem? |
| Conventions | Do I use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation? |
| Presentation | Is my writing neat or typed and easy to read?  
|             | Does the paper have consistent margins and spacing? |