

# The Elements of Poetry

## A Poetry Review

### Types of Poems

1. **Lyric:** subjective, reflective poetry with regular rhyme scheme and meter which reveals the poet's thoughts and feelings to create a single, unique impression.  
Matthew Arnold, "Dover Beach"  
William Blake "The Lamb," "The Tiger"  
Emily Dickinson, "Because I Could Not Stop for Death"  
Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"  
Walt Whitman, "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"
2. **Narrative:** Nondramatic, objective verses with regular rhyme scheme and meter which relates a story or narrative.  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"  
T.S. Eliot, "Journey of the Magi"  
Gerard Manley Hopkins, "The Wreck of the Deutschland"  
Alfred. Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses"
3. **Sonnet:** a rigid 14-line verse form, with variable structure and rhyme scheme according to type:
  - A. **Shakespearean** (English)- three quatrains and concluding couplet in iambic pentameter, rhyming abab cdcd efef gg or abba cddc efef gg. The Spenserian sonnet is a specialized form with linking rhyme abab bcbe cddc ee.  
Robert Lowell, "Salem"  
William Shakespeare, "Shall I Compare Thee?"
  - B. **Italian** (Petrarchan)- an octave and sestet, between which a break in thought occurs. The traditional rhyme scheme is abba abba cde (or in the sestet, any variation of c, d, e)  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "How Do I Love Thee?"  
John Milton, "On His Blindness"  
John Donne, "Death, Be Not Proud"
4. **Ode:** elaborate lyric verse which deals seriously with a dignified theme.  
John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"  
William Wordsworth, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
5. **Blank Verse:** unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter.  
Robert Frost, "Birches"  
John Milton, "Paradise Lost"  
Theodore Roethke, "I Knew a Woman"  
William Shakespeare, Macbeth  
Robert Frost, "Mending Wall"