

Name _____

QUATREAINS

Quatrains are four-line poems that may follow any one of four different rhyme patterns (AABB, ABAB, ABBA, or ABCB).

When quatrains are combined to make a long poem, each group of four lines is called a stanza. Stanzas are the "paragraphs" of poetry.

Quatrains are used in ballads to tell a story, sometimes humorous, but more often sad.

Examples:

ABCB The rustling ocean waves
Beat harshly on the sand,
They roar and splash and hiss
As they break upon the land.

ABAB On one dark and windy day
When it was very cold,
Down there a quivering jay
Squeaking in a voice so cold.

On your own! Try writing quatrains in each of these rhyme patterns:

AABB

ABAB

ABCB

ABCB
ABCB
ABCB
ABAB
ABCB
AABB
ABBA
ABCB