

Writing a Free-Verse Poem (taken from Writer's Express ©2000, pages 242-244)

Free-verse is one of the most popular forms of poetry. The poet makes up the rules for each poem! Free verse done well will have rhythm, though it may not have a regular beat. A variety of poetic devices may be woven throughout the piece, and there may be patterns of sound and repetition.

Prewriting – Planning Your Poem

- **Choose a Subject:** Write your poem about one subject that interests you. This could be a special room, a friend, a favorite animal, music, and so on.
- **Gather Your Thoughts:** Freewriting about subject can be a good way to begin. Stick to your subject and write a description of events and setting.

Writing the First Draft

- **Create a Poem:** the next step is to turn your freewriting into a poem. Begin by copying down the words, making line breaks where you hear pauses in the sentences. As you do this, you can also change some of the words or move them around.
- **Add New Words:** This is good time to add new words and phrases as you develop your poem. Take some of the freewriting and make a title.

Revising – Improving Your Poem

- **Add Word Pictures:** Ask yourself what words you can add to brighten your poem. Try using word pictures like similes, metaphors, and personification. (SEE "Writing Devices Used in Poetry" on the WriteStuff webpage.)
- **Create a Shape:** Think about writing the words in ways that make them look and sound like the topic of your poem.