

Stanza

Stanza: A group of lines in a poem, separated by space from other stanzas, much like a paragraph in prose.

Poem Example:

Morning

By: Emily Dickinson

Will there really be a morning?
Is there such a thing as day?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?

Has it feet like water-lillies?
Has it feathers like a bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?

Oh, some scholar! Oh, some sailor!
Oh, some wise man from the skies!
Please to tell a little pilgrim
Where the place called morning lies!

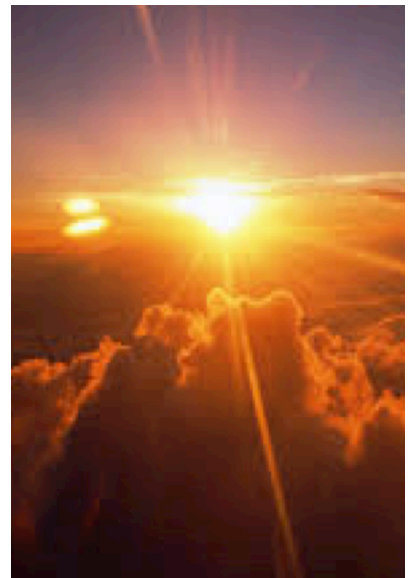
How many stanzas in each poem?

Check

By: James Stephens

The Night was creeping on the ground!
She crept and did not make a sound,

Until she reached the tree: And then
She covered it, and stole again



Along the grass beside the wall!
--I heard the rustling of her shawl

As she threw blackness everywhere
Along the sky, the ground, the air,

And in the room where I was hid!
But, no matter what she did

To everything that was without,
She could not put my candle out!

So I stared at the Night! And she
Stared back solemnly at me!

Couplet & Triplet

Couplet: A poem composed of two lines that usually rhyme

Examples:

*“Tis education forms the common mind,
Just as the twig is bent, the tree’s inclined.” –Alexander
Pope*

*O could I flow like thee, and make my thy stream
My great example, as it is my theme!- John Denham*

*Singing he was, or fluting all the day;
He was as fresh as is the month of May – Canterbury
Tales by Chaucer*

Triplet: A poem composed of three lines that can rhyme or not.

- If they rhyme, there are several different patterns (AAA, ABA, etc)
- When combined into longer poems, each three-line set is called a stanza.

Examples:

*A magical thing happened one day, A
When the loveliest tree in the wood, B
Bent down its branches to play. A*

*She was in love with the same danger A
everybody is. Dangerous B
as it is to love a stranger A*

Quatrain

Quatrain: A poem composed of four-lines that are usually rhymed.

- Some of the rhyming patterns that are commonly used are:
 - AABB
 - ABAB
 - AAAA
 - ABCC
 - ABCB (most common pattern)

Examples:

A caterpillar ambled onto a branch A
And began to spin a cocoon. B
For many a day it stayed submerged C
Then a butterfly magically emerged C

* * * *

Good people all, of every sort, A
Give ear unto my song; B
And if you find it wondrous short, A
It cannot hold you long. B

* * * *

Chang McTang McQuarter Cat, A
Is one part this and one part that. A
One part is yowl, one part is purr. B
One part is scratch, one part is fur. B

* * * *

Oh beautiful for spacious skies, A
For amber waves of grain, B
For purple mountains majesties, C
Above the fruited plain. B