

Lyric and Free Verse

Lyric poetry: • Expresses the poet's thoughts and feelings, often in a regular meter, or pattern of sounds. • May be arranged in stanzas • May contain rhyme and alliteration.

Free verse: • Expresses a poet's ideas and feelings with carefully chosen words. • Has no set rhyming pattern, meter, or line length. • May include alliteration and stanzas.



Find Text Evidence

I can tell that "How Do I Hold the Summer?" is a lyric poem because it expresses the poet's thoughts and feelings. It also includes rhyme, a regular meter, stanzas, and alliteration.

page 294

CCSS Shared Read Genre • Poetry

How Do I Hold the Summer?

The sun is setting sooner now,
My swimsuit's packed away.
How do I hold the summer fast,
Or ask it, please, to stay?
The lake like cold, forbidding seas—
The last sailboat has
Green leaves, gone gold, fall, float away—
Here's winter's veil of frost.

Essential Question
How do you express something that is important to you?
Read three ways that poets express what matters to them.

The poem expresses feelings and includes rhyme.

The poem contains alliteration, with words that begin with the consonants g and f.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

Reread the poems "Catching a Fly" and "When I Dance." Decide whether each poem is an example of lyric or free verse poetry. What elements do you see in each?

Theme

The **theme** of a poem is the message, or big idea, that the poet wishes to communicate. Identifying poetic elements and key details can help you determine a poem's theme.



Find Text Evidence

All three poems have speakers who express something important to them, but each poem has a specific theme. I'll reread "How Do I Hold the Summer?" and look for key details to determine its theme.

Detail

How do I hold the summer fast,
Or ask it, please, to stay?

Detail

So I'll search for signs of summer,

Detail

And store them up in a poem to
read/When snow begins to fall.

Theme

Good memories can be saved and revisited by recording our feelings about them in a poem.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Reread the poem "When I Dance." List key details in the graphic organizer. Use the details to figure out the theme of the poem.

Go Digital!

Use the interactive graphic organizer

Stanza and Meter

Poets often arrange their poems into **stanzas**, or groups of lines. Each stanza is a unit, or section, of the poem that expresses a key idea. Together these ideas help form a poem's main message. Poets may also use **meter**, also called rhythm, which is a regular pattern of sounds in a line.



Find Text Evidence

Reread the poem "How Do I Hold the Summer?" on pages 294 and 295. Identify the stanzas in the poem and think about how they are alike.

page 295

So I'll search for signs of summer,
Hold memories of each—
Soft plumes of brown pressed in a book,
The pit of one ripe peach,

Each instance of a cricket's chirp,
And every bird's sweet call,
And store them up in a poem to read
When snow begins to fall.

— Maya Jones

Each stanza has four lines
and contains a key idea.

An equal number of beats
in the lines creates a
regular meter, or rhythm.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Identify the key idea of each stanza of "How Do I Hold the Summer?" How do these ideas help form the poem's main message?

Simile and Metaphor

A **simile** makes a comparison, using the words *like* or *as*: “legs like sticks.” A **metaphor** makes a comparison without using the words *like* or *as*: “stick legs.”



Find Text Evidence

The fourth stanza of “Catching a Fly” has a simile using the word *like*: hands, like two fine threads. The fly’s front legs appear to be like long, thin hands. In the fifth stanza, the metaphor “greedy goggle eyes” compares the fly’s eyes to goggles, focused on food.

the appearance of hands,
like two fine threads, caught
plotting, planning—

greedy goggle eyes, webbed wings
like me, invading—
but no time to pause, he’d go—



Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Read the following simile and metaphor from “How Do I Hold the Summer?” What comparison does the simile make? What picture does the metaphor create?

The lake like cold, forbidding glass, page 294

Here’s winter’s veil of frost. page 294



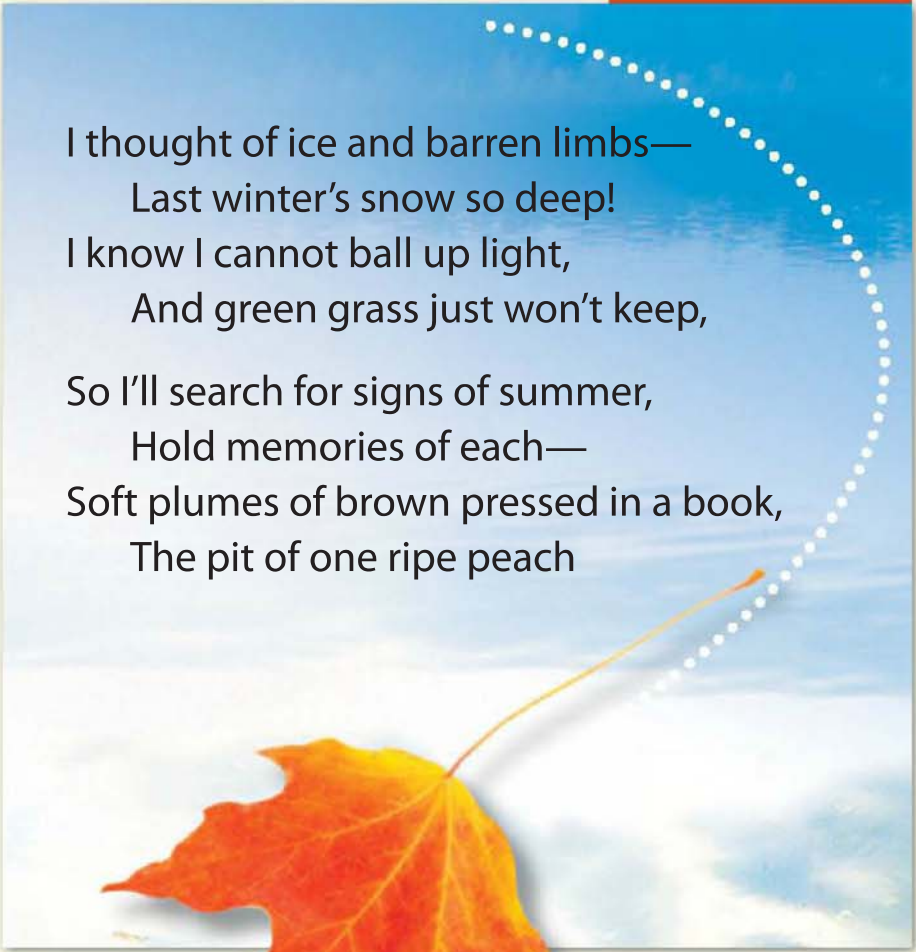
Readers to . . .

Poets use **sensory language** to convey how something looks, sounds, smells, tastes, or feels. Using sensory details helps them describe experiences and events in a clear and precise way. Reread these stanzas of “How Do I Hold the Summer?”

Expert Model

Sensory Language

Identify sensory language that the poet used. How did his word choice convey how things looked and felt?



I thought of ice and barren limbs—
Last winter’s snow so deep!
I know I cannot ball up light,
And green grass just won’t keep,
So I’ll search for signs of summer,
Hold memories of each—
Soft plumes of brown pressed in a book,
The pit of one ripe peach

Writers



Editing Marks

- ^ Add
- ^ Add a comma.
- ↷ Take out.
- sp Check spelling.
- ≡ Make a capital letter.

Kayla wrote a lyric poem. Read Kayla's revision.

Student Model

Feline Friends

There they are, my feline friends,

My best buddies of all.

One is large with ~~white~~ fur, ^{like milk}

The other is quite small.

There they sit, my feline friends,

^{Their} ~~big~~ ^{marble} eyes gaze out.

~~They're~~ sitting by the windowsill,

~~They're~~ impatient, no doubt!

I approach and down they leap,

As graceful as ballet.

Purring softly to ~~let me know~~ ^{express}

~~It's~~ ^{Its} time for us to play!

Grammar Handbook

Pronouns and Homophones

See page 465.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



- Identify the sensory words that Kayla used in her poem. Identify any similes, metaphors, and alliteration.
- Identify possessive pronouns and contractions that are homophones.
- Tell how revisions improved her poem.

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