

## Poetry

**Free Verse** has irregular lines and lacks a metrical pattern and rhyme scheme.

**Song Lyrics** are the written words of a song. Long ago poems were not just recited but were often sung.

### Literary Elements

**Alliteration** is the repetition of initial consonant sounds.

**Imagery** is the use of words to create a picture in the reader's mind.

# Birdfoot's Grampa

by Joseph Bruchac

The old man  
must have stopped our car  
two dozen times to climb out  
and gather into his hands  
the small toads blinded  
by our lights and leaping,  
live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,  
a mist about his white hair  
and I kept saying  
you can't save them all,  
accept it, get back in  
we've got places to go.

But, leathery hands full  
of wet brown life,  
knee deep in the summer  
roadside grass,  
he just smiled and said  
*they have places to go to  
too.*

The words **lights, leaping, and live** all begin with **l** to create alliteration.

The poet creates a picture when he describes the toads as "live drops of rain."



# This Land Is Your Land

lyrics by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York island;  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters,  
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,  
I saw above me that endless skyway;  
I saw below me that golden valley,  
This land was made for you and me.

The lyricist uses imagery when he compares a highway to a ribbon.

## Connect and Compare



1. Find another example of imagery in “Birdfoot’s Grampa” or “This Land Is Your Land.” How does the image appeal to one of your senses? **Imagery**
2. What kind of person is Birdfoot’s grandfather? Give examples from the poem. **Analyze**
3. How are Max Nolan’s attitudes toward wildlife in *Interrupted Journey* and the grampa’s attitudes in “Birdfoot’s Grampa” similar? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



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## Writer's Craft

### Transition Words

Use **transition words** in sentences to show cause and effect. Words such as *because* and *as a result* can make your writing clearer.

"As a result" explains why it was cold in July.

I included the word *because* here to explain why we stopped during the hike.

# Write a Diary Entry

July 15

Dear Diary,

My hike to Black Lake in the Rocky Mountains was incredible and a unique experience! I went with a group from the parks department last Saturday.

We met early on Saturday morning and took a bus to the Glacier Gorge Trail Head. Even though it's July, it was pretty cool. This was as a result of being so high up, more than 9,000 feet above sea level. We decided to climb a lot higher! In fact, we climbed 1,000 feet more.

First, we stopped at Mills Lake. It was really quiet in the middle of the mountains. I have never felt so small in my life! From Mills Lake, we kept going up. Because the climb became harder and harder, the guide let us stop every few minutes to rest. During the last part of the hike, we actually walked through snow! Black Lake was beautiful! It was well worth the trip.

## Your Turn

Write a diary entry about a personal experience with nature or a conservation group. You can describe a real experience or one you would like to have. Remember that this writing is about how you feel. Include transition words to show cause and effect. Use the Writer's Checklist to review your diary entry.

### Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I clearly describe my experience and my reactions to it?
- Organization:** Did I organize my ideas logically?
- Voice:** Does my diary entry capture my feelings about the experience?
- Word Choice:** Did I use **transition words** to show cause and effect?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I avoid using run-on sentences? Did I vary the length of my sentences?
- Conventions:** Did I correct run-on sentences by combining them with commas and conjunctions, or by writing them as two separate sentences? Did I check my spelling?