

## Poetry

### Free Verse Poems

are written without a traditional rhyme scheme or meter.



### Literary Elements

**Personification** is when human characteristics are given to animals, objects, or ideas.

**Imagery** is the use of descriptions to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind.

**Onomatopoeia** is a word that sounds like the action or object it describes.

# Suspense

by Pat Mora

Wind chases itself .....  
Around our house, flattens  
wild grasses  
with one hot breath.  
Clouds boil purple .....  
and gray, roll  
and roil. Scorpions  
dart  
under stones. Rabbit eyes peer  
From the shelter of mesquite.  
Thorny silence.

The wind  
“chases itself” is  
an example of  
*personification*.

The poet  
uses imagery  
with the words  
“Clouds boil  
purple and gray.”



My *paisano*, the road runner  
 paces, dashes into the rumble,  
 races from the *plink, plink*  
 splatter into his shadow,  
 at the crash splash,  
 sky rivers rushing into arroyos and  
 Thirsty roots of prickly pears,  
 greening cactus.

“Plink, Plink”  
 is an example of  
 onomatopoeia.

leaps

flash



## Connect and Compare

1. List another example of imagery from this poem. Describe the picture that this example paints in your mind. **Imagery**
2. What effect does the use of the present tense have in this poem? **Analyze**
3. Compare and contrast the storm in the poem to the information in *Hurricanes*. How are the storms different? How are they the same? Use information in each text to explain your answer.



Find out more about poetry at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

# Writing a Magazine Article

## Writer's Craft

### Tone

To convey their messages effectively, writers choose an appropriate **tone**. They often use a serious tone for important subjects but may also decide to treat a subject humorously.

I wanted to discuss important facts about global warming and how it might cause extreme weather.

I used a serious tone throughout my article.

## Global Warming and Extreme Weather

by Robert L.

Are you tired of hearing about long droughts, blazing fires, roaring floods, and huge hurricanes? Global warming and extreme weather seem to go hand in hand. That's why we're experiencing more and more serious storms.

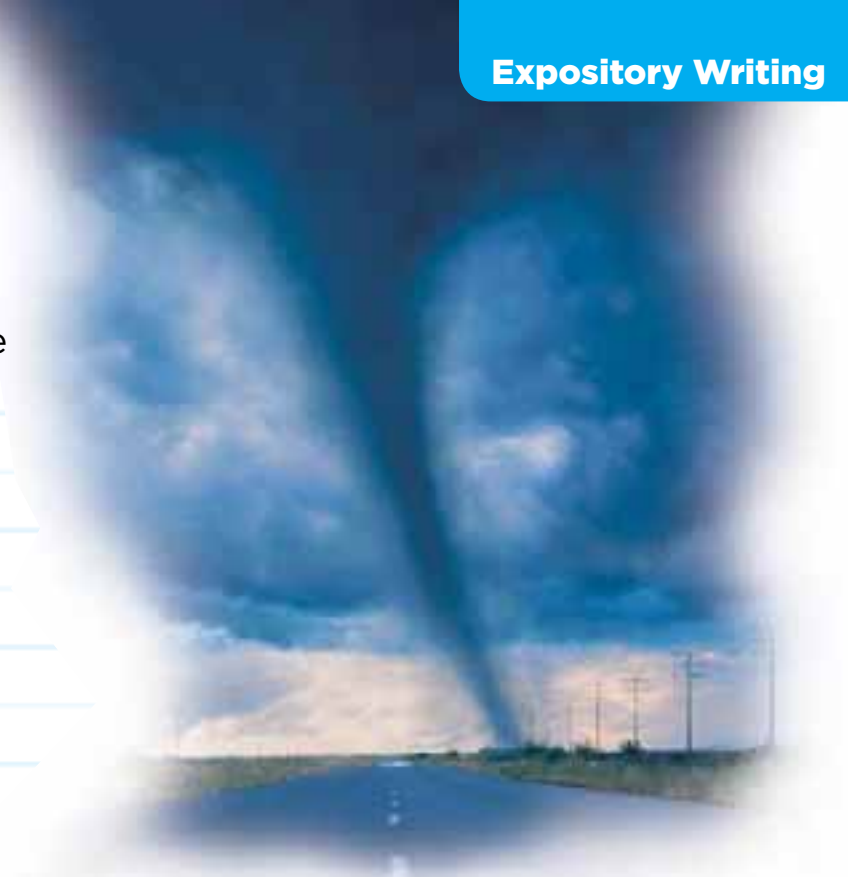
Smoke pouring from our cars and factories is partly to blame. Carbon monoxide is a gas found in this smoke. It creates a hot-air blanket around Earth. If too much carbon monoxide is released into the atmosphere, Earth becomes warmer and severe weather can occur.

Scientists are working to find ways to reduce the amount of carbon monoxide that is released into the atmosphere. One solution is the development of new products that are more fuel efficient. Another solution is for each of us to do our part. We can slow global warming by thinking about the future and using energy sources more responsibly.

## Your Turn

Choose a weather topic that interests you. Write a descriptive magazine article about it.

Remember to take good notes as you do your research. Add details to the facts in your notes. Be sure to maintain an appropriate tone in your article. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



## Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I choose a weather topic that interests me? Did I research it fully?
- Organization:** Does each paragraph of my article have a clear main idea?
- Voice:** Did I use an appropriate **tone** in my article?
- Word Choice:** Did I choose words that will appeal to my audience?
- Sentence Fluency:** Do descriptive details make some of my sentences longer and more interesting?
- Conventions:** Did I use hyphens correctly? Did I proofread for spelling errors?