

# Brave New Heights

## Poetry

A **Narrative Poem** tells a story. Some narrative poems have rhyming patterns, and some do not.



### Literary Elements

**Repetition** happens when a word or phrase is repeated throughout a poem.

**Personification** is a literary device in which human characteristics are given to an animal, thing, or idea.

I hear Amelia Earhart  
took a plane  
and flew it like a bullet  
straight up through clouds  
into an atmosphere  
we can't see

and when the engine  
cut  
(the plane being pushed  
as high as it would go)

The first line of the poem is repeated later.

I hear Amelia Earhart  
turned that plane  
straight back  
down into a blanket  
of foggy cloud lying thick  
and nearly to the ground

The phrase “the ground screaming in her face” is an example of personification. The poet describes the ground as if it were a human being.

only with the clouds gone  
could she pull back on the stick  
the ground screaming in her face  
Amelia tacked that plane  
back into the sky  
saving herself and breaking  
another flying record  
—*Monica Kulling*



## Connect and Compare



1. If you were the poet, how else might you use personification in this poem? **Personification**
2. How is this narrative poem like a story? Tell about the poem's main character, the problem faced by the main character, and the solution. **Analyze**
3. Compare Amelia Earhart with the Wright brothers as they are described in *My Brothers' Flying Machine*. How are they similar? How are they different?

**Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find more about narrative poems at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

# Write an Interview

## Writer's Craft

### Important Details

Unnecessary details slow the reader down. A good writer includes only **important details** essential to the theme or story.



I included important details about Ann.

I took out the extra words I didn't need.

## All About Ann

by Lisa B.

I interviewed my neighbor Ann Smith. She writes and illustrates children's books. Many of her books are about birds and flying insects. I asked Ann why that was.

"I've always wished I could fly," said Ann. "I guess that's why I make books about things that fly." Ann said she usually goes to the woods to watch birds and insects. On a pad of paper, she sketches them and carefully takes notes about what they do. She also reads a lot of books about animals that can fly.

I asked Ann what her next book will be about. She laughed and said, "It's about airplanes!"



## Your Turn

Interview someone about his or her job. First prepare a list of questions. During the interview, ask these questions and write down the answers. Then use your notes to write one or two paragraphs. Start a paragraph by including the question you asked. Then include the person's answer. Use direct quotations whenever possible. Use the Writer's Checklist to evaluate your writing.



### Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I include **important details** in my paragraphs?
- Organization:** Did I start by introducing the person and telling what his or her job is?
- Voice:** Will the reader get a clear sense of what this person is like?
- Word Choice:** Did I phrase my questions in such a way that I got the information I was looking for?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I delete unnecessary words?
- Conventions:** Did I use quotation marks around direct quotations? Did I check my spelling?