

ENG 215
Introduction to Creative Writing
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2024 (Block 8)

POEM

DUE: Friday 19 April by 9:00 am
Email to aabraham@cornellcollege.edu
Submit the poem as an attachment in Microsoft Word or pdf form
In the subject line write "POEM"

CHOOSE: Ballad *or* Dramatic Monologue *or* Sonnet

For the first major assignment of the block, each student will compose a poem in one of three traditional poetic forms. Choose one of the above. Do not mix and match. At the top of the page, identify which form you chose.

The Ballad: a poem that tells a story. Use as many lines and stanzas as it takes to complete your narrative. You may want to write in ballad meter: stanzas with four lines each (like "Mary Had a Little Lamb"). But this is not required. You may want to try the traditional ballad rhyme scheme of ABCB, but this is also not required.

Dramatic Monologue: a poem in the voice of an imagined speaker who addresses an imagined listener/addressee. Only the speaker says anything; the listener just listens. The two characters may be identified by name (or not). They may be fictional, historical, mythical. Any rhyme scheme (or none at all) may work. Any regular metrical pattern (or none) may also work. Use as many lines and stanzas as it takes to complete.

The Sonnet: a fourteen-line poem. Each line is five metrical feet. You may choose one of the traditional types, such as Petrarchan, Spenserian, or Shakespearean. If so, then follow the appropriate rhyme scheme. Or you may choose Irregular and invent your own rhyme scheme or use no rhymes at all. The sonnet is the most rigid of the forms: it must be fourteen lines, five metrical feet each. You are welcome to choose any subject. It's a fun challenge.

REQUIREMENTS

- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half. In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”
- Follow the conventions of edited American English unless there is a good reason not to. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*. There is no better book on the subject of English language usage.
- In the upper-left corner of the FIRST PAGE, include the following information:

Your Name

ENG 215

Date

Poetic Form: Ballad *or* Dramatic Monologue *or* Sonnet

If “Sonnet,” add a comma and the specific type, thus: “Sonnet, Shakespearean”

- One line below that, write a TITLE for your poem, centered, using mixed case (Capitals and lowercase). Do not italicize, underline, or use bold print.

GRADING

The poem is worth 10 points, which is 10 percent of your final grade. To earn 10 out of 10 points, you should ...

- submit by email no later than 9:00 am on the deadline stated above.
- follow all instructions on this assignment sheet.
- demonstrate through the writing that time and effort were committed.
- show up for the Poetry Celebration on Friday 19 April.
- read the poem out loud to the class when asked.
- write brief responses to your classmates’ poems.

If you want more guidance, feel free to ask a question or schedule a Zoom appointment.