

THE PENROSE TREKKIE

The
EVERYTHING
IS
POETRY
Primer

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The Everything is Poetry Primer

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to Writer's Block,

You have no power over me.

I'm of the opinion that writer's block is only a thing so far as we allow it to be a thing. Mary Shelley gave us *Frankenstein*, a source of inspiration for every generation since, and her loser-husband gave us the term Writer's Block to excuse his literary laziness.

But laziness is a tool by which we learn what we like and don't like. While her husband enjoyed the *idea* of being a poet, he didn't like the *work*, so he made up a now-super-famous excuse.

This primer is about making the work as easy as possible, so you can do it as often as you *like*.

Every poem in existence answers 4 questions:

1. What is the **form** of the poem, *open* or *shut*?
2. Who is the **voice** of the poem, *1st-*, *2nd-*, or *3rd-person speaker*?
3. What **kind** of poem is it, *narrative* or *lyric*?
4. What **type** of verse it it, *rhyming*, *blank*, or *free verse*?

In the pages that follow, we'll go a smidge deeper into the questions. To do so, I'll provide examples of each possible answer by asking the four questions above about items in my apartment as of this writing. Because *everything is poetry* and I mean to prove it.

WHAT IS THE **FORM** OF THE POEM?

If a poem is *not Shut/Closed/Fixed/etc.*, it is Open.

That 1 rule only gets tricky in the few instances that stretch any of the 3 rules for poems of Shut form:

1. If a poem has 1-8 lines, it is Shut;
2. If a poem has 14 lines, it is Shut; and or,
3. If a poem is organized into equal sections/parts/stanzas, it is Shut.

Nice & easy, right?

Example 1 Open Poem

Untitled

A rocking chair is a poem with a fixed form of seat and rockers. It is the speaker of its poem when it creaks beneath someone's weight. Sometimes it's lyrical and other times it's full of stories. It rhymes with many things but has its freedom, too.

Example 2 Shut Poem

Ars Poetica

The proof is in the elegance.

WHO IS THE **VOICE** OF THE POEM?

If a poem contains *any 1st-person pronouns*, the poem's voice is a 1st-person speaker.

If a poem contains *no 1st-person pronouns* but does use 2nd-person *even if it is implied*, the poem's voice is a 2nd-person speaker.

If a poem contains *neither 1st- nor 2nd-person pronouns* (not even an *implied you*), the poem's voice is a 3rd-person speaker.

Sometimes the contents/message of a poem give greater specifics, these are the basics.

Example 1st-Person Speaker

*Play me like a piano.
I play but one note.
Snap! Snap! Snap!
Hammering home
your message.*

Example 2nd-Person Speaker

*Bloom, Rose! Open those
coral petals which fib in their
forming! Bloom until they all
fall away to lie around as if
there is no curse in need of
breaking.*

Example 3rd-Person Speaker

*There's a kitty
sitting pretty
high above a shelf.*

*Ever-watching,
never-scratching,
high above that shelf.*

*What's she thinking,
never blinking,
caught without a frame?*

*Is she cursing
or just missing
someone out of frame?*

WHAT **KIND** OF POEM IS IT?

Once upon a time there were 2 kinds of poems, those that told stories and those that did not.

The poems which *told stories* were called *Narrative* poems, and they are still so called to this day.

The poem which *did not tell stories* were called *Lyric* poems for in the days of old they were often accompanied by the music of a lyre; and, while such accompaniment is no longer standard practice, they are still so called to this day.

Example 1 Narrative

*There was dust atop the fire
alarm,
she'd only meant to clean it;
but, no sooner than she
touched,
a special hell was loosed.*

Example 2 Lyric

*Not writing a poem is a
poem fixed in the mind. Its
speakers include doubt and
fear and indecision. It's a dull
story told too many times in
rhymes too weak to box your
ears.*

WHAT **TYPE** OF VERSE IS IT?

Rhyming verse is so called because — you guessed it — it rhymes!

Blank verse is poetry *does not rhyme* and is written in *iambic pentameter*.

Free verse is literally everything else; it doesn't rhyme, it doesn't have a set meter, it's freeeee!

Example 1 Rhyming

*Have courage?
Take courage!
Take heart!
In memories we never part.*

Example 2 Blank

*Umbrellas never open by
themselves
unless a spirit's done with
visiting.*

Example 3 Free

*Upon the wall there cross two
swords,
sisters through with dueling;
each still thinking she's the
hero,
the other but a villain.*

EVERYTHING IS POETRY.

It really is. You just have to ask the questions and work a little to answer those questions.

And when you do?

You can write a poem about *literally* anything, which means writer's block ... isn't really a thing.

It's just a lovely kind of laziness telling you what you *don't want to write*.

Everything is Poetry. If it wasn't, we wouldn't call this place the *universe*, now would we?

ABOUT THE POET

Rose Jermusyk is a singer-storyteller, philosopher-poet, and obsessive-compulsive dynamo who was brought up under a rocked shaped like Bill Murray on a hefty diet of fairy tales and nuclear engineering. Rose is a contributing writer with *EAP: The Magazine* who has published several of neighbors wonder tales to date. You can find Rose on [Instagram](#) responding to *all the comments* and sharing poetry/stories/realness with a commitment to kindness, intelligence and right work.

ABOUT THE PRIMER

This primer was written all in one sitting after a back-and-forth between myself and a friend via IG stories revealed to me how little you needed a workbook and instead just needed a little help swatting away the nonsense excuse of Writer's Block. It's an "off season" creation of <http://ThePenroseTrekkie.com> where I blog my way through every series and film of the *STAR TREK* franchise (the trekking element is unofficial, unaffiliated, and unsponsored) in the order they were released, writing Pushkin sonnets as I go. The site is both the home of all my poetry projects as well as the flagship project by which I keep my promise to you that:

You can write a poem about *literally* anything.