

Poetry Booklet:

Introduction:

What makes excellent poetry? As with almost all forms of creative writing, poetry needs to have creativity and charisma, that special something that brings a work to life for the enjoyment of others. Without such characteristics, the work, no matter what it was, would be bland and dull, the complete opposite of what poetry should be. To bring such characteristics into a poem, or any other work for that matter, is a matter of correctly incorporating various literary devices, like similes and imagery, accompanied by an advanced diction, utilizing as many different words as possible, accompanied with an appropriate theme or tone, to give the poem not only some life but rather an overall purpose and message to get the reader thinking. For an example of giving some “life” to my poems, I have incorporated a sense of humor, something to get the reader in a more joyful mood as they read poems about lighter topics, rather than deep and sometimes saddening works. Doing such not only brings a lighter tone to my works but also allows for more uses of vocabulary and diction to lighten the poems. Also to be noted is the use of creativity to give the reader a sense of curiosity and wonder towards the work. I personally do such by incorporating deep and meaningful messages in several of my works, only for the message to be sidelined by a completely unrelated topic. Following these guidelines, along with the author bringing their own twist to the table, is the most effective way at making excellent poetry.

My creative writing process boils down to me wanting to write poems that differ from those I have studied in the past and from what I have learned in the classroom. That being said,

much inspiration very necessary in order to effectively think up and write these poems in not only a creative, but also a professional, way. The inspiration for most of my poems was my personal thoughts and emotions towards various topics, most commonly being involved with humorous feelings towards overall silly and pointless things, with the exceptions of a few serious and deep poems that I felt were a necessity to include in any creative work. An example of such would be my number poem “484-885-8889”, which represents my personal cell phone number. Through this, I chose a topic that relates to me personally, which is the use of personal technology (cell phone) at a very young age and through a humorous tone delivered the message of how pointless it is to a young child, including me, and how addicting it can be for teens around my current age and beyond. Another source of inspiration can be found in two of my poems, my Haiku “Sleep” and Limerick “11 O’clock”, namely my personal “school experiences” or otherwise my love for relaxation after the demanding tasks that school has to offer. Again, like most of my poems, I use humor to lighten the tone of the poem, while still trying to actively convey a message about how I live my life and how demanding school can be for not only me but almost every hard working student in the country. Doing this is how I attempt to create something different from most other poems I have seen, by taking a topic that is serious but sometimes looked over and incorporating them into my poems through the use of silly and humorous literature. In the end, though, I do still take time to focus on the uses of various literary devices in other poems, in order to produce a cleaner and more professional work, but overall, my primary inspirations are my personal life experiences mixed with knowledge gained from other poems I had studied in the past.

It is not easy to pick my favorite work, with all of them seeming to have their own great qualities and charm to them. If I had to pick one, though, it would be my free verse poem “The Sound”. Through this poem the reader is taken on a journey, questioning their very existence and what their “Sound” is speaking about. At the end of this journey, though, it is revealed that the entire time, this “Sound” was nothing more than a joke, or rather IHOP “speaking” to the reader, allowing them to know that they are the supreme breakfast restaurant. This would be my favorite poem not only because of how outrageously silly it is, but also because of how clever and mischievous it is, completely tricking the reader into thinking deeply about themselves while taking a sharp u-turn of the plot during the end. Also, I found the personification of the IHOP, having it literally speak to the reader, rather amusing, as it is such an outrageous situation that it actually makes the reader think “know what, maybe IHOP would not be to bad of a choice”. Finally, my overall favorite thing about this poem was the freedom I experienced whilst writing it, feeling as if I had almost no limitations during the writing experience and feeling as if I could go anywhere I wanted to with the topic, which I did indeed end up doing, and ended up having a very fun time with. All of this would be why this poem, my only free verse poem in the book, would be my favorite.

Poems:

Haiku:

“Sleep”

Time to go to bed

The greatest time of the day

Nothing quite compares

Five-Sense Poem:

“Happiness”

Happiness

Smells like a breath of fresh air on a warm summer day

Looks like the happy faces of millions of ordinary citizens

Feels like the warm air gently brushing against your skin

Sounds like the ocean waves crashing against the shore

Tastes like a 20 piece chicken mcnuggets for the fair price of \$2.00

Headline Poem:

BioPoem:

“MOM”

Melanie

Kind-hearted, intelligent, determined

Mother of Billy and Ian

Who loves her children, her job and her life

Who loves to spend time with her children, hates being without them and enjoys her time spent with friends and family

Who fears Ian going off to college and them not succeeding

Who has earned a great job, with a loving family and two intelligent children

Who wants to see a friendlier world where everyone is happy

Who resides in garnet valley, Pennsylvania

Fitzgerald

“DAD”

Bill

Smart, hard-working, funny

Father of Ian and Billy

Who loves hard his kids and their willingness to succeed

Who enjoys his traveling the world, felt proud of his children and felt remorse for their departure

Who fears his children not succeeding, and the Phillies or Eagles doing poorly

Who earned a great job and brought up two great children

Who wants to see them succeed, along with the Eagles finally winning that superbowl

Who lives in Glen Mills, PA

Fitzgerald

Simile Poem:

It is as beautiful as a beach sunset

As grand as the Eiffel tower

Nothing quite compares

To its almighty powers

As great as the King

And as powerful as his army

Though it is nothing to fear

For it is not fond of harming

Of course something so grand

Can barely be contained

What is this magical power?

IHOP, it is named.

Cinquan:

“Heavenly gift”

Oh boy

Going to get

A quarter pounder with

Cheese, ketchup, and pickles. Comes straight

From God

Number Poem:

Number chosen: 484-885-8889 (my phone number)

Had since age eight

Although no use for it back then

What was the point

—

iPhone for Christmas at age twelve

Still no real use for it back then

Just played angry birds

—

Currently carry iPhone six

Used for Netflix and texting Friends

Probably used way too often

Contemplating if I am insane

Extended Metaphor:

“Heaven on earth”

To me, it is a heaven on earth

Capable of anything and everything

To others it may be an endless abyss

Full of despair and hopelessness

What is it to you then?

Will it be a large mountain, seemingly daunting

Or maybe just a tiny slope

Which could easily be climbed over

How may one find out whether this place

Is a heaven or hell?

One must drive over to McDonalds and decide

Whether a quarter pounder with cheese is worth getting

Shakespearean Sonnet:

Out there is a place where

anger and sadness is not around

Only joy is in the air

And no one looks down

—

Where life is as great as

A never-ending joy

Where all good moments last

And no fear is employed

—

How may one travel here,

Where life is a heaven?

And although it may not appear,

It is not as hard as people reckon

—

All one must do is to get in their car and drive

To taco bell and get their new deal “two for five”

Headline/Current Event:

Donald Trump

Furious, entertaining, mean to all

Elected 45th president of the United States

Suppose it is time to “build a wall”

Mrs. Clinton has lost

Her failure had led

To trump being elected and

Him “Making America Great Again”

Free Verse:

WOOSH... Can you hear it now?

The sound as grand as can be

Like a thousand voices, beautiful

Coming together to sing the most godly songs

—

Can you hear it now? Where is it coming from?

What are they singing about, is it important?

One may only truly hear the subject of their own song

If they choose to listen carefully

—

Can you hear it now? What is your song about?

Your dreams and aspirations? Your fears and anxieties?

Listen closely and one day you'll see

What they want you to forever learn

—

They say “listen closely here, for this is all I'll tell,

IHOP has the best pancakes around,

Sure Denny's and Bob Evans are solid but nothing quite compares

To the overall grandness of the international House of pancakes

Ballad:

It is finally here

The last day of it all

No more need to fear

Cuz it is the law

That school is done

All we need is the bell

Now time for the real fun

And be free as well

-

I finally get outside

And I sit and stare

Look up at the sky

No more need to care

The busses come by

Now it is time to go

No more need to try

Time to stay at home

And say to this place “GOODBYE”

Limerick:

It's 11 o'clock at night

Pass out, I just might

Was it bad too wait

Until it was too late?

Procrastination is my right

Parody:

Wake up in the morning and it's so cool

Cuz I get to go to Garnet Valley High School

Where the food totally does not taste like drool

And the teachers totally do not make you look like a fool

-

Yes GV is the perfect place to be

Where I totally have never been given a D

Was this use of paper really worth the death of a tree?

Yup everything here runs perfectly

Literary Device Sheet:

1. Hyperbole

One example of a Hyperbole being used in the article would be in my number poem "484-885-8889". The use of a hyperbole in this poem would come from the very last line of the poem, in which the author (me) compares himself to being actually insane, which is an over exaggeration of his addiction to his phone. This hyperbole is used here not only to enhance the quality of the poem, adding a more professional and clean spectrum that accentuates all other features of the poem, but also gives the poem a better sense of theme and tone.

2. Personification

One use of personification occurs in my free verse poem called "The Sound" in which the sound that is described throughout the poem is actually words emitted by an object incapable of speaking words, or the IHOP restaurant. This is used not only to enhance the reader's experience during the poem but also give a sense of humor towards the poem, giving a silly thing such as an IHOP more descriptive characteristics. It also gives the poem a twist, with most readers expecting a deep and meaningful message but instead hearing a restaurant actually speak to them.

3. Imagery

The most profound use of imagery in the poems would be my five sense poems, which included descriptions of various senses, include seeing and hearing. For example, much detail is used to describe an ordinary event such as wind blowing gently against one's skin. This enhances the poem by making the poem sound more interesting, and enhance the reader's experience whilst reading it. Not only through this poem were vivid imagery used just to meet the requirements of what a five-sense poem is composed of, but also just to give the reader a sense of being a part of not only the poem itself but the message it is trying to convey, which is that happiness can come from such vivid and specific types of experiences. Overall, the indulging tone and joyous theme of the five sense poem "Happiness" is due to the imagery that is included.

4. Onomatopoeia

An example of Onomatopoeia used in the poems would be in my free verse poem "The Sound" in which the very first line of the poem depicts a whooshing sound. This is added in not only for artistic effect, but really to give the reader a sense of what they are dealing with in the poem, and how this whooshing sound could actually be more deep than they had first expected. This sound could also be interpreted as trying to throw off the reader, making them think at

first that the sound is a deep and meaningful thing that must be listened carefully to, whilst in reality it is just the personified version of IHOOP speaking directly to the reader.

5. Inversion

One example of an inversion found in the book would be in the free verse poem "The Sound" in line three of the first stanza. This use of an inversion of words would be "Like a thousand voices, beautiful" instead of the regular sentence "like a thousand beautiful voices". The inversion is used here not only to give the poem a better sense of style and flow, but to also emphasise the grand characteristics of the "sound", making the reader further believe that the sound is something that is almost magical in its power. One could also say that this is meant to throw the reader off, for in reality the sound is not powerful at all, giving the ending an ironic twist that the reader could not see coming based upon what had been described of the sound. Overall, the inversion fits perfectly with the style and flow of the poem, while misguiding the reader into thinking that the sound is special, making the twist even sharper.

6. Couplet

One example of a couplet that enhances the poem would be the last two lines of the Shakespearean Sonnet called "The Place". Through these last two lines, as many of my poems had included, a large yet silly twist ending is shown, depicting how this wonderful place that

had been described throughout the entire story was actually nothing more than a Taco Bell, completely throwing off what the reader had previously believed, which was a much more deep sense of wonder towards a heavenly place, and making them reread the poem, with a completely new perspective, which is much less serious due to the revelation of the place. This couplet not only very much enhances the humorous aspect of the poem but also adds a nice conclusion and even enhanced sense of style and flow to the poem, by giving it a nice and well rhymed ending that makes the reader want to read the poem again and again. Overall, this couplet had been the complete turning point of the poem, completely changing its mood and theme.

7. Refrain

The most profound use of refrain as shown in the book would come from my free verse poem "The Sound". Here the phrase "Can you hear it now?" is repeated three times, once at the beginning of each stanza except the ending stanza. Although this can be interpreted as only being included to enhance the style of the poem, in reality it was included to drive home the message that the "sound" that is being discussed throughout the poem is pertaining to them personally, making them feel as if the poem is speaking to them and making them wonder about their past beliefs as well. As most other uses of literary devices through this poem, also, it can

be interpreted as a way to throw the reader off, and make them think as if they are diving deeper and deeper only to be taken by a sharp twist, completely disproving whatever the reader had previously thought about the poem. It does this by making the reader think deeply about what their sound was, and what their life could be telling them, but completely throws them off by saying that in reality the sound is something as silly as an IHOP.

8. Allusion

An allusion used in multiple of the poems shown in the book include various restaurants and fast food joints that many ordinary people go to, but one in particular is mentioned multiple times. This would be IHOP, in which is used in a couple poems throughout the book. To chose one in specific, an allusion of IHOP is not only used but also personified in the use of the free verse poem "The Sound". Here the "sound" is actually the sound of an actual IHOP restaurant going and speaking to the reader. This allusion is used mostly just as a silly reference to a place that many of the readers had most likely been to, but also in part was used to give the reader a sense of a down to earth tone, making the reader feel as if they are reading something they can truly relate to, instead of something that is too hard to understand and pushes away the reader.

9. Symbolism

One particular example of symbolism as used in the poetry book would come from the five sense poem "Happiness". Every line here includes symbolism, as all lines symbolize the feeling of happiness that one can get from such basic things, even going as far as to include Chicken nuggets. This symbolism is used here not only because that using such are the guidelines of the poem, but it also enhances the overall message of the poem. The message of the poem is that happiness comes from the little things, and is helped by the symbolism of little things include smiles and gentle breezes. Also, such symbolism helps accentuate the happy and light tone of the poem by giving the reader a sense of simplicity.

10. Which poem contains the most "profound" theme? What is this poem's theme? Why is it so significant?

Although most of the poems have profound, and mostly silly, themes that can be interpreted in several different ways, the best and most profound of them all would come from the five sense poem "Happiness". Although the theme seems blunt at first, if one were to dig deeper and discover what the theme is really about, they would earn an even larger respect for the poem. The overall theme is that happiness is not something that comes from the most grandest of experiences, like winning much money or becoming famous, but rather comes from the little things that would be passed over by someone who is not looking for it, like a gentle

breeze or someone smiling. Even the last example, which is meant for the purpose of humoring the reader, can be interpreted as such. It is significant because most likely the reader is not going to make millions, and not going to become wildly famous, making some seem mad or even sad at what will never be. By the reader reading this poem, they will believe that it does not matter, and that the little things in life can bring much more joy than any material substance or amount of fame could ever bring.

11. Provide two examples of alliteration. Include the poem, the line number and the words.

Although many poems have this, two examples in particular would be from the number poem “484-885-8889”. These two examples of alliteration, obviously only used to enhance the flow of the poem, come from lines three and seven. Through these lines the phrases “What was” and “Currently Carry” are used.

12. Provide two examples of assonance. Include the poem, the line number and the words.

Since many of the poems featured in the book are written to rhyme, finding examples of assonance were easy. Just two name two specific examples of this, in my parody poem “GV”

one example of assonance is used every line. In the first stanza, cool, school, drool, and fool are used. In the second stanza, be, D, tree, and perfectly are used.

13. Provide two examples of consonance. Include the poem, the line number and the words.

Just to name two specific examples of consonance, the extended metaphor poem "Heaven on Earth" in which consonance is used in lines three and four, along with line eleven. The phrases that contain consonance here include "endless abyss... hopelessness" and "McDonalds and Decide", all added to add a sense of rhythm and flow to the poem.