

Free-Verse Poem Rubric

This is a rubric to support the revision process.

Criteria	Needs Work	Good Start	Right on!
Words & phrases communicate... a focused topic	The poet writes generally about the topic of the poem with little to no detail. <i>We do lots of things on my back porch.</i>	The poet has a focused topic, but only uses descriptive words and phrases for some parts of the poem. Other parts of the poem are general. <i>We do lots of things on my back porch.</i> <i>We eat, play checkers, and talk.</i> <i>My sister tells me secrets in quiet whispers.</i>	The poet has a focused topic and uses descriptive words and phrases throughout the poem to support the topic. <i>On my back porch</i> <i>My family eats butter cookies</i> <i>We play checkers</i> <i>My sister tells me secrets in quiet whispers</i>
Words & phrases help the reader imagine how... something looks, sounds, smells, tastes or feels to the touch	The poet does not use word or phrases that communicate the five senses. Or, images, sounds, tastes, sounds, or feelings do not support the topic of the poem. <i>We sit on the back porch</i>	The poet uses words and phrases that communicate the five senses for some of the poem, but would benefit from adding descriptive words. <i>We sit on the back porch</i> <i>In the hot sun</i> <i>Drinking lemonade</i>	The poet effectively uses words and phrases to help the reader imagine how things look, sounds, smell, taste or feel throughout the poem. <i>We sit on the worn back porch</i> <i>Melting in the hot afternoon sun</i> <i>Water drips down the sides of our lemonade glasses</i>
Words and phrases communicate... emotions	The poet does not use words or phrases that communicate emotions in the poem or states emotions without providing details. <i>We sit on the back porch.</i> <i>We are happy.</i>	The poet uses words and phrases that communicate emotions for some of the poem, but would benefit from adding descriptive words or phrases. <i>We like to sit on the back porch</i> <i>I am relaxed to the bone</i>	The poet effectively communicates emotions with words and phrases throughout the poem. <i>Tranquil</i> <i>We sit on the back porch</i> <i>Relaxed to the bone</i> <i>Lazily sipping our lemonade</i>