



Quatrain

Ever heard anyone sing *Roses are Red*? If so, you've already heard a quatrain poem. A quatrain is a stanza with four lines and a rhyme scheme. While a quatrain is only one verse, a quatrain [poem](#) can contain any number of quatrains (including one). As a bonus, the rhyme schemes can be extremely varied, making these poems particularly adaptable and accessible.

From Wikipedia:

A **quatrain** is a type of [stanza](#), or a complete [poem](#), consisting of four lines.

Existing in various forms, the quatrain appears in [poems](#) from the poetic traditions of various ancient civilizations including [Ancient Greece](#), [Ancient Rome](#), and [China](#); and, continues into the 21st century, where it is seen in works published in many languages. During Europe's [Dark Ages](#), in the Middle East and especially Iran, [polymath](#) poets such as [Omar Khayyam](#) continued to popularize this form of poetry, also known as [Ruba'i](#), well beyond their borders and time. There are twelve possible [rhyme schemes](#), but the most traditional and common are: [AAAA](#), [AABB](#), and [ABAB](#).

- The *heroic stanza* or *elegiac stanza* ([iambic pentameter](#), rhyming ABAB or AABB; from [Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"](#))

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Ballads and hymns, both of which may be familiar to you are written in quatrains...as are many Hallmark cards☺ I hesitate to add the next excerpts because the poems are so simplistic, but I want you to see the variety of rhyme schemes and to know how much better you can do with added imagination and more concrete and imagery laden diction (vocabulary).

Quatrains are the most fun and most popular poems to write. Anyone can do these! They are four lined verses that rhyme. There are several rhymed models you can follow that make writing this type of poem fun and exciting!!

Here is an (a, b, a, b) model. The first and third line rhyme and the second and fourth line rhyme.

I like to dribble the ball - a
When I go outside to play - b
Its better than a doll - a
On a sunny day in May - b

Here is a (a, a, b, a,) model. The first, second and last line rhyme. The third line needs to flow with the poem but does not rhyme with the other lines.

I like to play by the sea - a
It is very fun for me - a
The waves are so much fun - b
The sea is where I want to be - a

Try this kind of Quatrain model. (a, a, b, b) These are really fun! Make sure the first and second lines rhyme and then the third and fourth lines need to rhyme with each other.

Basketball is not boring - a
Dribbling, shooting, scoring - a
The only way to play - b
Is winning all the way. - b

Here is a (a, b, c, b) model. The second and fourth line rhyme and the first and third line need to flow with the poem. You try it!

Once I made a snowman - a
Handsome as can be - b
In the snow he melted - c
A sad sight to see. - b