Text Type Guide - Poems

Limericks
- The whole poem is 5 lines.
- Lines 1,2 and 5 rhyme with each other.
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other.
- The first, second and last lines have 3 beats to their rhythm.
- The third and fourth lines have 2 beats to their rhythm.
- The first line often ends with a person's name or the name of a place.
- They are usually funny.

Haiku
- A Haiku consists of 3 lines.
- The theme focus is often nature.
- A season-related word is included e.g. snow.
- Descriptions relate to the senses – what you can see, hear, smell, taste and touch.
- There are 5 syllables in the first and third lines.
- There are 7 syllables in the second line.

Tanka
- A tanka consists of 5 lines and 31 syllables.
- There are 5 syllables in the first and third lines.
- There are 7 syllables in the second, fourth and fifth lines.
- The focus is a funny or interesting incident or story.

Remember there is no end punctuation or rhyming.

Acrostic
- The focus is a theme of your choice e.g. reading, ice cream.
- The first letters of each line spell out a word or phrase.
- The first letter of each line is a capital letter.
- The lines do not need to have a rhythm or rhyme.

Cinquain
- A cinquain consists of 5 unrhymed lines.
- The first and last lines have just 2 syllables.
- The second line has 4 syllables.
- The third line has 6 syllables.
- The fourth line has 8 syllables.
- Tells a story.
- Includes an action and a feeling.
- Has a conclusion.

Remember it does not need to rhyme.

Sonnet
- A sonnet consists of 14 lines.
- Alternate lines rhyme with one another, apart from the last 2 lines which rhyme with each other.
- Each line has 10 beats.
- The themes are usually about ageing, death, life, love and the seasons of life.

Riddle
- A riddle is usually 5 or 6 lines long.
- Use creative descriptions.
- The first few clues should be general and tricky.
- The final clues should make it more obvious what the riddle is about.
- It is usually written in the first person.
- The last line should be "What am I?".