Poetic forms...

**Acrostic**: poetry in which the first letter of each line, when read vertically, spell out a word. The word is usually the subject of the poem.

V a n i l l a
A s I eat it on my brownie
N ot doubting it’s sweet
I ce cream is a tasty treat
L ots of lingering taste
L asting to the end
A lways my favorite!

**Haiku**: an ancient Japanese form with no rhyme. Haiku often deal with nature. This type of poetry has three lines with a fixed number of syllables:

Line 1= 5 syllables
Line 2= 7 syllables
Line 3= 5 syllables

The dying plant bends
And drips its dew to the ground
It falls like a tear

**Couplets**: two-line poems with a fun and simple rhyming pattern. Each line has the same meter and their endings rhyme with one another. Couplets are often humorous.

My English teacher wants me to use imagination
So I go to math class and let my mind go on vacation!

**Tanka**: another Japanese form that depends on the number of lines and syllables instead of rhyme:

I have my own place
Where I can go for hours
I go there to write
It is not difficult to find
Search within your heart and mind.

**Cinquain**: a form consisting of five lines. Each has a required number of syllables, and a specific topic.

Flowers
Pretty, fragrant
Waiting, watching, weeding
Enjoying all the while they grow
Gardens

**Diamonte poems**: diamond-shaped poems of seven lines that are written using parts of...
speech. The Diamonte is a form similar to the Cinquain.
Line 1: Noun or subject
Line 2: Two Adjectives
Line 3: Three 'ing' words
Line 4: Four words about the subject
Line 5: Three 'ing' words
Line 6: Two adjectives
Line 7: Synonym for the subject

Limericks: whimsical poems with five lines.
Lines one, two, and five rhyme with each other and lines three and four rhyme with each other. Rhyme pattern: AABBA

Proverbs: have been called the shortest art form. They use devices associated with poetry- rhyme, rhythm, and metaphors. They provide vivid imagery to teach a moral lesson.

Shape Poems (concrete poems): poem that form a visible picture on the page. The shape usually reflects the subject of the poem.

Rap: spoken-word expression of urban activists that began in the 1960s. In the early 70s "rapping" evolved into spoken rhymes about street life put to the beat of DJ-manipulated drum machines and turntables. Click here for more on rap.

Free Verse: poetry without rules of form, rhyme, rhythm, or meter.

Home
Safe, caring
Loving, sharing, talking
Friendship, food, car, travels
Living, loving, enjoying
Joyous, adventurous
Family

A flea and a fly in a flue
Were caught, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "Let us flee."
"Let us fly," said the flea.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

"If one thinks he is the wisest, he is not wise at all."

Trees blossoming in the spring
Clouds above give rain
Fruit will come soon
Nature is at work
while
trees
stand
still

Don't wait to beat the street
Stay in school and keep your seat
The entire eight parts of speech
Will your reading, writing, and speaking teach!

What do the oceans do at night?
Do they tease and tickle the bottom of boats?
Do they ripple away in fright?
Or are the beaches like coats
That keep them still and quiet
And once the day breaks and it's breakfast time
Do the oceans wish for some other diet than fish?
**Sonnets:** poems of 14 lines that begin with three quatrains and end with a couplet. The couplet usually contains a surprise ending or "turn." William Shakespeare is one of the most famous sonnet writers in history.

Why do we continue to kill in various ways?
Why do we waste time with jealousy and hate?
Why not take advantage of the current date?
Stop the violence now, don't let it grow.
Love is important, a fact that we all know.
As the fires of hate continue to burn
The hands of clock continue to turn.
No one can find reason to our madness today.

The gift of life is extremely short
Demand no more violence of any sort!
With kindness, life's quality we can improve!
As those hands on the clock continue to move.
Day becomes night and night becomes day
The hands of the clock keep ticking away.

**Narrative poems:** tell stories and are usually long. Epics and ballads are narrative poems.

There once was a man named Bob
Who was out looking for a great job
He really needed money to feed pets
His cat's name was Tiger
His dog's name was Ted.

His pets were hungry most of the day
The animals were hungry - they couldn't play
Bob had been laid off for a month or two
There was plenty of work that Bob wouldn't do.
Bob was really hungry.
His stomach was an empty tank
He decided to go rob a local bank.

He walked through the door and looked around
He pointed his gun and yelled "Get down"
Bob took the money and headed for the door.
If only he had seen the officer in the store.

The policeman came out with a shout
Bob thought for a second and then pulled his gun out
One shot, two shots and with a deafening sound
Poor old Bob's body hit the ground.

With his last breath
He thought back to his pets
He sure hoped Tiger and Ted
Would have a great life after he was dead!

**Quatrains:** rhyming poems of four lines. Poets use letters to express the rhyme.

Picnic planning in July
Poets use letters to express the rhyme pattern or scheme. The four types of quatrain rhyme are: AABB,(shown at right) ABAB, ABBA, and ABCB.

Traveling up the mountains so high!  
What an adventure for me  
Because I prefer mountains to sea!