

## Tips for Poets

As you prepare to write remember that:

- **Poems tell stories**
- **Poems have lines and stanzas, not paragraphs.**  
Here are few types of poem forms you might use:
  - **Cinquain**, consisting of only 5 lines.  
One word first line,  
two words second line,  
three words third line,  
four words fourth line  
five words fifth line.
  - **Haiku**: Just three lines  
First has five syllables  
Second seven syllables  
Third line again has five syllables.
  - **Acrostic**: the first letter of each line is aligned vertically to form a word  
**N**ow I am in wonder  
**A**s the sky turns blue  
**T**his is the day  
**U**rgent with what is possible  
**R**eassuring me that  
**E**ach of us can fill it with goodness.
  - **Free Verse**: no set rules, based on normal pauses and natural rhythm.  
Some lines/words may rhyme.
- **Poems have cadence and rhythm.** How do your words sound when you read them aloud?
- **Poems eliminate unnecessary words and are generally concise.** Have you used words to create a vivid image for the reader?
- **Did you check for spelling? Is your poem legible?**