

Stanza Forms

Heroic Couplet

- A couplet is a literary device that can be defined as having two successive rhyming lines in a verse, and has the same meter to form a complete thought.

If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

(Shakespeare's *True Love*- concluding couplet)

- A heroic couplet is a specific type of rhyming couplet that discusses heroic themes and that usually uses iambic pentameter. The **heroic couplet** traditionally appears in long, narrative poems called epics, but it can also be used in mock epics that parody the 'heroic' tone of epic poetry.

Here Thou, great Anna! whom three Realms obey,
Dost sometimes Counsel take—and sometimes Tea.

(from *The Rape of Lock* by Alexander Pope)

- **Closed and Open Couplets-**
 - ✓ Open couplets- A couplet that cannot render a proper meaning alone is called an “open couplet. It's a part of a bigger composition.
 - ✓ Closed couplets have the ability to stand apart from the rest of the poem; it is independent, and hence it is called a “closed couplet.”

WEB SOURCES-- 1. <https://www.thoughtco.com/heroic-couplet-definition-4140168>

2. <https://literarydevices.net/couplet/>

Terza Rima

- **Terza rima** is an Italian stanza form
- A three-line stanza using chain rhyme in the pattern ABA BCB CDC DED.
- There is no limit to the number of lines, but poems or sections of poems written in **terza rima** end with either a single line or couplet repeating the rhyme of the middle line of the final tercet.
- First used by Dante in *Divine Comedy*
- In 14th-century Italy- used for allegorical and didactic poetry, by Petrarch and Boccaccio
- Introduced in England by Sir Thomas Wyatt in the 16th century.

O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being, A
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead B
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing, A

Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red, B
Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou, C
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed B

The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low, C
Each like a corpse within its grave, until D
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow C

Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill D
(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air) E
With living hues and odours plain and hill: D

Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere; E
Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh hear! E

(from- Percy Bysshe Shelley's *Ode to the West Wind*)

Spenserian Stanza

- **Spenserian Stanza** is a verse form that consists of eight lines in iambic pentameter followed by the ninth line of six iambic feet called *an alexandrine*
- The rhyme scheme is ABABBCBCC.
- The first eight lines produce an effect of formal unity, while the hexameter completes the thought of the stanza.
- Introduced by Edmund Spenser in his poem *The Faerie Queene*
- the Spenserian Stanza has origins in
 - the Old French *ballade* (eight-line stanzas, rhyming *ababbcbc*)
 - the Italian *ottava rima* (eight iambic pentameter lines with a rhyme scheme of *abababcc*)
 - the stanza form used by Chaucer in his *Monk's Tale* (eight lines rhyming *ababbcbc*).
- It was revived in the 19th century by the Romantic poets—*e.g.*, Byron in *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, Keats in “The Eve of St. Agnes,” and Shelley in “Adonais.”

Forth came that auncient Lord and aged Queene, A
Arayd in antiquerobes downe to the ground, B
And sad habiliments right well beseene; A
Anoble crew about them waited round B
Of sage and sober Peres, all gravely gownd; B
Whom farre before did march a goodly band C
Of tall young men, all hable armes to sownd, B
But now they laurell braunches bore in hand; C
Glad signe of victorie and peace in all their land. C

(from *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser)

WEB SOURCES-- 1. <https://www.britannica.com/art/Spenserian-stanza>

2. <https://poetscollective.org/poetryforms/spenserian-stanza/>

Blank Verse

- **Blank Verse** is a literary device defined as un-rhyming **verse** written in iambic pentameter.
- It has a consistent meter with 10 syllables in each line (pentameter); where, unstressed syllables are followed by stressed ones
- Without rhyme.

Features of Blank Verse%

- Blank verse poetry has no fixed number of lines.
- It has a conventional meter that is used for verse drama and long narrative poems.
- It is often used in descriptive and reflective poems and dramatic monologues
- It may also be written in other metres but iambic pentameter is the most commonly used one.

Of Man's/ First Dis/obe/dience,/ and the Fruit
Of that/ Forbi/dden Tree,/ whose mor/tal taste
Brought Death/ into /the World, /and all/ our woe,
With loss/ of *E/den*, till/ one grea/ter Man
Restore/ us, and /regain/ the bliss/ful Seat,
Sing Heav'nly Muse,.....

Source: Paradise Lost- Book 1

John Milton

WEB SOURCE- <https://literarydevices.net/blank-verse/>