

## Patterning a Poem



1. Choose a poem from the lyric section of our textbook, from a book from the library, or from the Internet. Cite the source.
2. Read it several times so that you have a good sense of the both the meaning and structure.
3. Tell the T.I.M.E. of that poem.
4. Pay particular attention to the structure of the

poem. Note rhythm pattern, rhyme pattern, kind of poetic devices, and sentence structure.

Then, on a topic of your choice, pattern this poem, following and closely as possible the structure of the lyric poem you've selected.

Now you are ready to begin patterning the poem on a topic of your choice. On a sheet of lined loose-leaf paper, copy on alternate lines, the rhythm pattern or sentence structure. You will be writing your poem below these symbols.

For example:

u	/	u	/	u	/	u	/	A	
Adverb		Pronoun		Verb		Infinitive		Adjective	Noun

Then, begin patterning your poem so that you come close to the rhyme and rhythm patterns, or the sentence pattern as you noticed in the lyric poem you chose.

### DAYBREAK IN ALABAMA by Langston Hughes

When I get to be a composer  
 I'm gonna write me some music about  
 Daybreak in Alabama  
 And I'm gonna put the purtiest songs in it  
 Rising out of the ground like a swamp mist  
 And falling out of heaven like soft dew.  
 I'm gonna put some tall tall trees in it  
 And the scent of pine needles  
 And the smell of red clay after rain  
 And long red necks  
 And poppy colored faces  
 And big brown arms  
 And the field daisy eyes  
 Of black and white black white black people  
 And I'm gonna put white hands  
 And black hands and brown and yellow hands  
 And red clay earth hands init  
 Touching everybody with kind fingers  
 And touching each other natural as dew  
 In that dawn of music when I  
 Get to be a composer  
 And write about daybreak  
 In Alabama

<b>T</b> title theme thought	Who could be THE SPEAKER? Who could be the audience? What clues to meaning /message are given in the title?
<b>I</b> imagery	What kinds of sensory <b>imagery</b> are used in this poem? What kinds of figurative language are used in this poem?
<b>M</b> music	Use "abc" to mark the rhythm pattern of this poem? What is it? Use "u" for unstressed syllables and "/" for stressed one, mark the pattern of your lyric poem. What is the sentence structure and punctuation in this poem? How are the lines of the poem laid out?
<b>E</b> emotions	What is the <b>emotion</b> expressed by the poet? (TONE) or (MOOD) experienced by reader? Pay close attention to the sound and suggestive power (CONNOTATION) of words.



Photo: <http://www.150.si.edu/150trav/remember/r914.htm>  
 Poem: <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/daybreak-in-alabama/>



Adapted by Anna J. Small  
 Roseboro

<http://teachingenglishlanguagearts.com/>