

Understanding Narrative Poetry

What is Narrative Poetry?

Narrative Poems are poems that tell stories. There is a beginning, which introduces the background to the story, a middle, which tells the action of the event, and an end, which concludes and summarizes the story.

What are the origins of Narrative Poetry?

Narratives are the oldest form of poetry. Long before there was paper to write on or ink to write with, long before the invention of the printing press, people often shared stories as events. In used to sp events, pe would all much easi short story

LESSON PREVIEW

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questions

- What are the characters doing, or what is happening?
- Why are these events happening?
- How are the characters affected by the action or events?
- What can be learned from the poem?

Where can we find narrative poetry in our daily lives?

Although narrative poetry is one of the oldest forms of literature, this does not mean it is no longer prevalent in today's world. In fact, any time you turn on a radio, you can hear narrative poetry on nearly any radio station. The best place to see or hear narrative poetry today would be in songs. Songs are simply poems set to music, and the songs that tell stories are narrative poems set to music.

Name _____

Date _____

Respond, Recall, Analyze, and Interpret

Use the poem, "The Echoing Green," to answer the following questions.

1. In line 11, the speaker refers to "Old John." Do you think this is a real person?

2. In line 2, the skies are referred to as "happy." What do you think this description means? Why would "happy" be used to describe the skies?

3. What is

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5. What a

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7. To what are old age and youth being compared in this poem? why?

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Apply Through Writing

Think about a sad, funny, interesting or exciting event that has taken place in your life or in the world around you. Consider three or four main points about the event that a reader would need to know in order to make sense of your ideas. Now, write a narrative poem with or without lines that rhyme, using each of the main points as a central idea for each stanza.