Lines or Paragraphs?

Sort passages by how they are written

4.2.R.2 "Students will compare fiction, poetry, and nonfiction to distinguish various genres."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POETRY

Poetry uses carefully chosen words arranged in lines. A poem can describe real things or imagined things, and it does not have to rhyme.

A lantern glows above the pier. Its golden light brings sailors near.

PROSE

Prose uses regular sentences instead of poem lines. It can tell a made-up story, called fiction, or share true information, called nonfiction.

Saturn has rings made mostly of ice and rock.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POETRY or PROSE for each passage, then choose two items and explain what helped you sort each one.

1.	The moon wears silver dancing shoes. It tiptoes past the sleepy trees.	POETRY PROSE
2.	Eight spider legs step over stone. Silk strands stretch from branch to branch.	POETRY PROSE
3.	Mina opened the tiny door. A talking mouse asked her to come in.	POETRY PROSE
4.	A sea turtle breathes air with its lungs. It swims to the surface to breathe.	POETRY PROSE
5.	The old backpack whispered, "Look inside!"	POETRY PROSE
6.	The wind hums through the tall green grass. Dry leaves hurry down the path.	POETRY PROSE
7.	A magnet can pull some metals, such as iron, toward it.	POETRY PROSE
8.	A cactus stores water in its thick stem.	POETRY PROSE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write a new two-line poem and a new two-sentence prose passage; make one about something real and the other about something imagined.

POETRY _____

PROSE _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain how a poem about a real animal can be poetry even when it shares true facts.

ANSWER KEY

Lines or Paragraphs?

GRADE 4 · 4.2.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The moon wears silver dancing shoes. It tiptoes past the sleepy trees.	**POETRY**	The imagined scene is written in two carefully worded lines.
2	Eight spider legs step over stone. Silk strands stretch from branch to branch.	**POETRY**	The lines use rhythm and repeated sounds to describe a real animal.
3	Mina opened the tiny door. A talking mouse asked her to come in.	**PROSE**	Regular sentences tell a fictional story.
4	A sea turtle breathes air with its lungs. It swims to the surface to breathe.	**PROSE**	Regular sentences share true information.
5	The old backpack whispered, "Look inside!"	**PROSE**	A regular sentence tells part of a fictional story.
6	The wind hums through the tall green grass. Dry leaves hurry down the path.	**POETRY**	The passage uses two descriptive poem lines.
7	A magnet can pull some metals, such as iron, toward it.	**PROSE**	A regular sentence shares a true fact.
8	A cactus stores water in its thick stem.	**PROSE**	A regular sentence shares a true fact.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **POETRY**: A dragon juggles stars at night. Its scales make every window bright.
- **PROSE**: Bees collect nectar from flowers. They use nectar to make honey.

Challenge: A poem about a real animal can share true facts. Its arranged lines and carefully chosen words make it poetry, even though its facts are nonfiction.

Items 1, 2, and 6 are poetry. Items 3 and 5 are fiction prose; items 4, 7, and 8 are nonfiction prose. For Part 2, accept explanations that point to poem lines or regular prose sentences, not just whether the content is real or imagined.