

Shape the Sound

Analyze deliberate lines and punctuation across poetic forms.

8.8.B “analyze the effect of graphical elements such as punctuation and line length in poems across a variety of poetic forms such as epic, lyric, and humorous poetry;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB These three original classroom poems use a heroic journey in the epic tradition, a lyric speaker's feeling, and humorous verse. The first is an imagined excerpt, not a complete epic. In each poem, mark one longer and one shorter line; circle punctuation that affects its sound or meaning. Count poem lines below the heading.

Three poetic voices

1. The Warning - epic-style excerpt

At dawn, Lio crossed the salt plain for the distant towns.

Behind him: locked gates. Ahead: the rising storm.

"Carry the warning," his sister had said.

He stopped.

One step could save a village; one retreat could lose it.

He lifted the map and walked into the wind.

2. After Rain - lyric

Rain taps the window. I count each bright drop:

one, two, three...

then nothing.

Why does this quiet make me miss the sun?

A sparrow shakes its wings!

I laugh, though summer still feels far away.

3. The Guardian - humorous verse

"Stand back!" my dog announced. "I guard the moon."

He chased a beach ball underneath a chair.

He waited.

The moon did not come out. I brought a treat.

"A small reward for bravery," he said,

"plus gravy."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 In The Warning, compare the long opening with "He stopped." How do length and punctuation shape the heroic choice?

- 2 How do the ellipsis, question mark, and exclamation point create shifts in After Rain?

- 3 How does The Guardian use quoted speech and its short last line differently from the serious voice in The Warning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the actual printed line breaks as evidence. Then vary line length and punctuation in your own poem and explain their effects; naming a mark alone is not analysis.

1. Compose with a purpose

Write six to eight lines of humorous verse about an ordinary object acting important. Include a deliberately short line, a longer line, quoted speech, and a punctuation choice that changes pace or tone. Keep each authored line on its own ruled line. Do not copy the model.

2. Compare effects

Explain two choices in your poem. Then compare one of those effects with a specific line or punctuation choice in a different form above. Connect the graphical choice to pace, voice, tone, or meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

These three original classroom poems use a heroic journey in the epic tradition, a lyric speaker's feeling, and humorous verse. The first is an imagined excerpt, not a complete epic. In each poem, mark one longer and one shorter line; circle punctuation that affects its sound or meaning. Count poem lines below the heading. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In The Warning, compare the long opening with "He stopped." How do length and punctuation shape the heroic choice?	The long opening stretches the journey across a wide setting. The brief, end-stopped fourth line interrupts that movement, focusing attention on hesitation before the village-saving decision. The semicolon in line 5 balances the opposed consequences.
2	How do the ellipsis, question mark, and exclamation point create shifts in After Rain?	The ellipsis lets counting trail off; the question turns the quiet into personal uncertainty or longing. The exclamation briefly brings the sparrow's sudden energy, while the final line keeps the longing present. Accept supported tonal readings.
3	How does The Guardian use quoted speech and its short last line differently from the serious voice in The Warning?	The dog claims heroic importance in speech, but the short "plus gravy" exposes an ordinary appetite, creating a deflating punchline. In The Warning, the brief stop builds tension around a consequential mission rather than undercutting it.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Illustrative six-line humorous poem

"Behold!" my pencil cried.

"I signed the treaty that will save this desk."

It rolled away...

I searched beneath the chairs to find our hero.

At last, it rose, its point wrapped up in dust.

"History," it said.

The long search line makes a tiny escape sound important. The ellipsis delays the discovery, and the short final line gives the pencil a grand, silly last word. Unlike the brief fourth line in *The Warning*, which builds tension around a serious choice, this short final line undercuts the speaker with a joke.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

The source poems and the model are original classroom writing. Do not describe the brief heroic excerpt as a complete epic. Evaluate supported interpretations across all three forms, including deliberate line lengths and punctuation. The performance focus is analysis of effects; the original verse is a transfer task. Accept alternative readings grounded in exact printed lines. No fixed word count per line is necessary.