Harbor Forms

Compare how poetic structures shape a harbor scene.

ELA.7.R.1.4 "Analyze the impact of various poetic forms on meaning and style."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three poetic forms 1, 2, and 3, then underline one structural feature and circle one word or phrase in each paragraph that helps create its mood.

Three Views of Dawn

(1) At the harbor festival, Mina carried three drafts about the same dawn. Her first was a haiku:

Fog folds over docks
One bell wakes the quiet boats
Gulls stitch up the sky.

She chose seventeen syllables, arranged 5-7-5, with no rhyme. The brief form held one sharp moment instead of telling a full story. Its images, fog, bell, boats, and gulls, made the harbor seem still and watchful. Readers had to pause and imagine what happened before the bell sounded.

(2) For her second draft, Mina wrote a rhyming quatrain, four lines with an ABAB rhyme pattern:

The market lights began to gleam,
While vendors rolled their carts away;
The tide pulled silver through the stream,
And morning warmed the salted bay.

The repeated end sounds, gleam/stream and away/bay, gave the scene a steady, songlike beat. Unlike the haiku's quick snapshot, this form moved through several actions. The rhyme connected the lines and made the busy harbor feel orderly, as if dawn followed a familiar path each day.

3 Mina's last draft used free verse. It had no set rhyme scheme:

Behind the fish market,
a child finds a blue button
near a rope dark with rain.
She pockets it,
then runs toward the ferry,
leaving one small circle of color
beside the gray water.

The uneven line lengths slowed readers on details. The pauses made the discovery feel unexpected. Free verse let Mina follow the child's movement without fitting each thought into a set pattern. The three drafts showed how form shaped attention and mood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the haiku's short 5-7-5 structure affect what the reader notices about the harbor?

2. How does the quatrain's ABAB rhyme pattern affect the style of Mina's second draft?

3. How do the uneven line lengths and pauses in the free verse affect the reader's experience?

4. Compare the haiku and the rhyming quatrain. How does each form handle action in the harbor scene?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a haiku and a rhyming quatrain about the same weather event. Use a 5-7-5 syllable pattern for the haiku and an ABAB end-rhyme pattern for the quatrain, then write exactly two sentences explaining how the forms create different meaning or style. Put each verse line on its own line, separate the two poems, and place the two-sentence explanation after them. Use extra paper if needed.

ANSWER KEY

Harbor Forms

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three poetic forms 1, 2, and 3, then underline one structural feature and circle one word or phrase in each paragraph that helps create its mood. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the haiku's short 5-7-5 structure affect what the reader notices about the harbor?	**It creates a brief snapshot of one moment and focuses attention on sharp images, making the harbor seem still and watchful.**
2	How does the quatrain's ABAB rhyme pattern affect the style of Mina's second draft?	**The repeated end sounds give it a steady, songlike beat and make the busy harbor feel orderly.**
3	How do the uneven line lengths and pauses in the free verse affect the reader's experience?	**They slow the reader on small details and make the child's discovery feel private and unexpected.**
4	Compare the haiku and the rhyming quatrain. How does each form handle action in the harbor scene?	**The haiku captures one still moment, while the quatrain moves through several actions, such as vendors leaving, the tide pulling, and morning warming the bay.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cold rain taps windows
The street lamps blur in puddles
Night holds its wet breath

Rain drums a beat along the lane,
Cars hiss and splash beneath the light,
The clouds move on, but drops remain,
And windows shine against the night.

The haiku captures one quiet instant, so the rain feels still and close. The rhyming quatrain moves through sounds and actions, and its repeated end rhymes create a steadier, more musical style.

Accept answers that connect a form's structure, such as syllable pattern, rhyme, line length, or pauses, to a specific effect on meaning or style. For the open task, accept varied topics and wording if the haiku, rhyme pattern, and two-sentence explanation meet the stated requirements. Display the model haiku as three hard lines, then the quatrain as four, followed by the separate two-sentence explanation. Verify 5/7/5 syllables and lane/remain, light/night ABAB rhymes. Source forms are displayed as 3/4/7 lines; source quatrain gleam/stream and away/bay rhymes correct. Preserve equivalent supported interpretations and use extra paper when needed.