

# Shape the Sound

Notice how line length and punctuation shape each poem's effect.

**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** Underline one long line and one short line in each poem, then circle punctuation marks that change a pause, voice, or tone. Number the three poems in the margin.

### Three Ways to Shape a Poem

- ① Epic, a poem about a hero's large-scale journey: At dawn, Lio crossed the salt plain with one small map beneath his coat. Behind him, the city gates shone. Ahead, the storm rolled over hills, turning the whole horizon dark. “Keep walking,” his sister had said, “even when the road forgets your name.” Lio lifted the map. He walked. The wind tore at his sleeves, but he faced it alone, carrying news for villages beyond the pass.
- ② Lyric, a short poem that focuses on one speaker's feeling: Rain taps the window. I count each bright drop, one, two, three... then stop. The quiet after rain fills the room like a held breath. Why does a small sound make me miss summer? Outside, a sparrow shakes its wings! I laugh, though my eyes sting. The question stays unanswered, soft as mist on the glass. I press my palm there, watching the cloudy shape fade.
- ③ Humorous poem, a poem meant to amuse: My dog declared, “I will not chase that bouncing moon tonight.” He barked at a beach ball and tripped over his own leash. “Clearly,” he sighed, “the moon has learned a clever disguise.” I gave him a biscuit. He accepted it with dignity. Then he chased the ball again. The ball rolled beneath a bench. My brave astronomer waited, hoping the moon would return with gravy. “For science,” he explained.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** In the epic poem, how do the longer lines about the road and the villages affect the sense of Lio's journey?

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**2** What effect does the ellipsis after "one, two, three..." create in the lyric poem?

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**3** How does the question mark in "make me miss summer?" affect the speaker's voice in the lyric poem?

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**4** How do the quotation marks and the short final line, "For science," he explained, create humor in the last poem?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a 6 to 8 line humorous poem about an ordinary object acting important. Include one line with 2 to 4 words, one line with 8 to 12 words, quotation marks, and either an ellipsis or an exclamation point. Then write one sentence explaining how one punctuation mark or the different line lengths affects the poem's tone.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline one long line and one short line in each poem, then circle punctuation marks that change a pause, voice, or tone. Number the three poems in the margin. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                  |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | In the epic poem, how do the longer lines about the road and the villages affect the sense of Lio's journey?     | <b>They stretch the journey across a larger distance and make Lio's mission feel long and wide-ranging.</b>             |
| 2 | What effect does the ellipsis after "one, two, three..." create in the lyric poem?                               | <b>It creates a trailing pause, showing the speaker's counting and thought fading into the quiet.</b>                   |
| 3 | How does the question mark in "make me miss summer?" affect the speaker's voice in the lyric poem?               | <b>It shows that the speaker is wondering and uncertain about the feeling of missing summer.</b>                        |
| 4 | How do the quotation marks and the short final line, "For science," he explained, create humor in the last poem? | <b>The quotation marks give the dog a confident voice, and the short final line makes his silly excuse a punchline.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

"Behold," said my pencil, "I have signed the treaty of Algebra!" Then it rolled beneath the desk... I searched under every chair in our crowded classroom. It returned, wearing eraser dust. "History," it said. The ellipsis pauses before the search, and the long search line makes the pencil's tiny escape seem more dramatic.

Accept reasonable analyses that identify a specific punctuation mark or line-length choice and explain its effect on pace, voice, mood, or humor. For the open task, check that the poem meets the stated line, punctuation, and quotation-mark requirements and that the explanation connects form to tone.