

Lines or Paragraphs

Use structure to tell poetry from prose.

9.RL.1.B “Examine and analyze the characteristics that distinguish literary forms (e.g., fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, novel, drama, essay...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

POETRY

Poetry arranges words in lines and often stanzas. Line breaks can control pace, emphasis, and sound.

Moonlight pools beside the gate while crickets sing.

PROSE

Prose arranges complete sentences into paragraphs. Paragraph structure helps develop ideas, events, or information.

Ava labeled the jars in the science lab. Her notes recorded each measurement.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each passage and circle POETRY or PROSE according to its structure.

1. Dawn opens one pale window in the eastern sky.

POETRY

PROSE

2. Jordan tightened the loose strap on his backpack. Then he hurried toward the library before it closed.

POETRY

PROSE

3. The article explains how wetlands filter water. It also describes animals that depend on marsh plants.

POETRY

PROSE

4. Beneath the bridge river stones hum with cold current.

POETRY

PROSE

5. A paper kite climbs past chimneys and disappears.

POETRY

PROSE

6. At noon, the mechanic tested the repaired engine. Its steady sound told her the problem was solved.

POETRY

PROSE

7. I keep one question folded inside my pocket.

POETRY

PROSE

8. The speaker paused after the final point. The quiet audience considered the proposal.

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 one new poetry example with at least three lines. Write one new prose example with two complete sentences in one paragraph.

POETRY

PROSE

CHALLENGE

Choose one example you wrote. In exactly two sentences, explain how its line breaks or paragraph structure affects its meaning or style.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Dawn opens one pale window in the eastern sky.	POETRY	Words are arranged in separate lines.
2	Jordan tightened the loose strap on his backpack. Then he hurried toward the library before it closed.	PROSE	Complete sentences are grouped as a paragraph.
3	The article explains how wetlands filter water. It also describes animals that depend on marsh plants.	PROSE	Information is presented in complete sentences in paragraph form.
4	Beneath the bridge river stones hum with cold current.	POETRY	The passage uses purposeful line breaks.
5	A paper kite climbs past chimneys and disappears.	POETRY	The words are arranged in lines rather than a paragraph.
6	At noon, the mechanic tested the repaired engine. Its steady sound told her the problem was solved.	PROSE	The passage is written as complete sentences in a paragraph.
7	I keep one question folded inside my pocket.	POETRY	Line breaks create the structure.
8	The speaker paused after the final point. The quiet audience considered the proposal.	PROSE	The ideas are expressed through complete sentences in paragraph form.

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:** Fog drifts low across the empty field until the fence disappears.
- **PROSE:** Rina checked the map at the trail split. She chose the path that led to the lake.

Challenge: The line breaks in my poetry example make the fog seem to move slowly across the field. Ending the last line with “disappears” emphasizes how completely the fog hides the fence.

Sort by visible structure, not by whether the passage tells a story or shares information. Accept original examples that clearly use the required line or paragraph structure.