

LYRIC

A **lyric** is traditionally fairly short, between four and sixty lines, and usually expresses the feelings and thoughts of a single speaker in a personal and subjective fashion. The range and variety of lyric verse is immense, and lyric poetry composes the bulk of all poetry. If the poem is not narrative or dramatic (which usually follows the other genres given here), it is probably a lyric poem. Most poems fall into the general categories of *love*, *lamentation* (sadness) and the *pastoral* dealing with the natural world).

Lyric

- The lyric is a poem which expresses the personal feeling of the poet or persona in this poem. The word 'Lyric' is derived from the Greek word 'Lyre,' that which connotes a verse appropriate for singing. The lyric poem has the following characteristics:
- -It is generally brief."
- -It expresses the poet's deep feelings towards any subject.
- -Sometimes it is characterised by the employment of the first person pronoun
- -The subject matter of a lyric poem is centred around love, beauty, death, nature, etc.
- -As a result of its musical qualities, the lyric poem has evocative rhythms.
- -It is generally subjective rather than objective in nature.
- -The lyric is a genre which embodies the following:-sonnet, elegy, ballad, ode, satire, hymn, and special purpose poetry like that used for drinking, politics, farming, lullabies etc.
- Examples are Wordsworth's 'I wandered lonely as a cloud,' 'The Solitary Reaper,' Chinweizu's 'The Epidemic,'

LYRIC



- GREEK ORIGIN
- MELIC OR LYRIC (SINGLE VOICE) VS CHORIC (CHORUS)
- SHORT POEM - EXPRESSING SINGLE EMOTION
- ACCOMPANIED BY THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LYRE
- MELODIOUS – MUSICAL POEM
- PERSONAL EXPRESSION OF THE POET
- DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS
- FIRST PART – MOTIVE
- SECOND PART HEIGHT OF EMOTIONS
- THIRD PART INTELLECTUAL IN CHARACTER



• MOTIVE
I part

• HIGHEST
PITCH
II part

• PARTING
SMILE/SIGH
III part

What is an ode?

Waitrose

- From the Greek, "aoide" or "**song**" to something
- Public or private **reflection**
- Traditionally formal, stately or grand and long
- **Greek/Latin** odes had repeating stanza patterns.
- Romantic odes **broke** these structures, focusing on outpouring of emotion (e.g. Keats "Ode to a Nightingale", or "To Autumn" - Waitrose advert)
- Now often **a song reflecting on an idea or object** representing an idea, with varying forms.

These notes are on student/teacher share file.

Definition of Ode

An ode is a lyrical stanza written in praise for a person, event, or thing. The form developed in **Ancient Greece** and had a very specific and elaborate structure involving three parts known as **the strophe, antistrophe, and epode**. Originally, Greek odes were set to music. The form was later popularized and adapted in Renaissance England and led to a new set of conventions.

The word ode comes originally from the Greek word meaning “song.” The definition of ode has thus clearly changed over time, as now it is often used colloquially to refer to any praise or glorification of an individual or thing.

Types of Odes

In Ancient Greek poetry there were **three types** of odes: **Pindaric, Horatian, and irregular**. The Pindaric ode is named after the Greek poet Pindar, and the Horatian ode is named after the Roman poet Horace.

Pindaric: Pindar is often credited with creating the ode form. This original form of the ode contained the formal opening of the strophe, the mirroring stanza called the antistrophe (which has the same meter and length of the strophe), and the concluding epode, which has a different meter and length than the previous two sections. These ode examples were originally performed by a chorus and accompanied by dancers and instruments such as the aulos and lyre.

Horatian: Known as a homostrophic ode, each stanza in the Horatian ode form has the same meter, rhyme scheme, and length. This is not the only difference from the Pindaric ode; Horatian odes are also less formal and more intimate and reflective. Horatian odes generally have two- or four-line stanzas.

Irregular: Irregular odes use rhyme scheme and meter, but do not have the same stanzaic structure as either the Pindaric or Horatian odes. There is no correspondence between the different parts, as there is in the other two forms, and the rhyme scheme requires lines only to rhyme somewhere, and not in a particular place.

Common Examples of Ode

Though technically the ode is a lyrical poem with certain conventions of meter and rhyme, we often use the word conversationally to describe any outpouring of praise for someone or something. Examples : Ode to the West Wind by Shelley Ode to a Nightingale by John Keats

Significance of Ode in Literature

The ode has held an elevated position in the history of literature. Pindaric odes were often written and performed to celebrate athletic victories while, much later, **Romantic poets** wrote odes in English to celebrate their strongest sentiments and deepest admirations. The ode suited both of these time periods well due to the love of drama in both Ancient Greece and in the Romantic period at the end of the 18th century and into the 19th century.

The first known odes written in English were the *Epithalamium* and *Prothalamium* by **Edmund Spenser**, but the form really took off with the irregular odes of **Abraham Cowley**. The **Romantic poets William** Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, and Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote the most famous examples of odes in the English language.

Edmund Spenser’s *Epithalamion* is one of the two first examples of ode in the English language. Coming from Elizabethan England, this first stanza of Spenser’s ode reveals the large themes that he will be dealing with in his poem.

Thomas Gray’s “The Progress of Poesy” is an excellent English example of ode in the Pindaric tradition. In this short poem we can see the strophe and mirroring antistrophe. Gray uses imagery and language that glorifies nature and art, typical of the Pindaric ode.

Alexander Pope's "Ode on Solitude" is a beautiful example of an ode in the Horatian tradition. Pope uses four-line stanzas, which are typical of Horatian odes.

John Keats's *Ode on a Grecian Urn* is perhaps the most well-known ode ever written (though more so in name than in content, perhaps). This is an example of an irregular ode; there is rhyme throughout, but it is not as strict as other rhyme forms. Keats wrote this poem to glorify the virtues of classical Greek art; therefore, no other poetic form is as fitting as the ode, which is an example of classical Greek art itself.