



LIFE·PAC®

Language Arts

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Alpha Omega Publications®

# LANGUAGE ARTS 606

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# LANGUAGE ARTS

This LIFEPAC® includes various poetic forms such as free verse, pen pictures, Ezra Pound couplets, limericks, ballads, lullabies, and mood poems. It also will cover similes, metaphors, alliteration, palindromes, riddles, and other word puzzles. All these poetic forms and techniques help color our language and make it more fascinating to read and listen to.

As you progress through the LIFEPAC, notice how the different poetic forms use rhythm, rhyme, and spacing. Noticing these forms will help you when you start writing poems of your own. The exercises and puzzles will help you test your power with words and your writing skills.

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify certain poetic styles.
2. Write poems of your own, using some of the poetic forms studied in this LIFEPAC.
3. List some of the major characteristics of poetry.
4. Identify effective rhyme and word choice.
5. Demonstrate economy of words in writing poetry.
6. Identify alliteration, similes, and metaphors.
7. Write palindromes and acronyms.
8. Select and apply word inflections.
9. Spell and use some new homonyms.
10. Identify patterns in words.
11. Write the definitions of some vocabulary words.
12. Identify sounds and their various spellings.
13. Use a basic vocabulary of literary terms.
14. Make an attractive book of your own poetry.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

**alliteration** (u lit' u rā' shun). The repetition of the same letter at the beginning of two or more words in sequence.

**ballad** (bal' ud). A poem that tells a story in a simple verse form.

**brilliant** (bril' yunt). Having great ability.

**bristle** (bris' ul). To stand up straight; have one's hair stand up straight.

**category** (kat' e gôr ē). A division, species, or group.

**chant** (chant). To sing a short, simple song without melody.

**cliché** (klē shā'). An overused idea or expression.

**compress** (kum pres'). To squeeze together; to make smaller by pressure.

**constrain** (kun strān'). To restrict something.

**dialogue** (dī' u lôg). Conversation (spoken or written out).

**drowsily** (drou' zu lē). In a sleepy way.

**economy** (i kon' u mē). Making the most of what one has; freedom from waste in the use of anything.

**emphasis** (em' fu sis). Stress; special force of voice put on particular words or syllables.

**emphasize** (em' fu sīz). Put special stress on.

**epic** (ep' ik). A long poem that tells of the adventures of one or more great heroes.

**force** (fôrs). Active power; strength.

**ford** (fôrd). To cross a river, stream, or other body of water.

**formal** (fôr' mul). According to set customs or rules.

**incorporate** (in kôr' pu rāt). To make something a part of something else.

**knack** (nak). The ability or power to do something easily; special skill.

**knots** (nots). A measure of speed used on ships; one nautical mile per hour.

**legendary** (lej' un der' ē). Fabulous, like a legend.

**limerick** (lim' ur ik). A nonsense poem of five lines.

**minstrel** (min' strul). A singer or musician in the Middle Ages who entertained the royalty.

**mock-heroic** (mok' hi rō' ik). Ridiculing or making fun of the heroic style.

**monotonous** (mu not' u nus). Not varying; without change; boring because it is always the same.

**mood** (müd). A state of mind or feeling.

**mythology** (mi thol' u jē). A group of myths relating to a certain country.

**pliant** (plī' unt). Bending easily; yielding.

**portrait** (pôr' trit). A picture of a person, especially of the face.

**rely** (ri lī'). To depend on; trust.

**repetition** (rep' u tish' un). Doing again; saying again.

**sated** (sā' tud). Satisfied; complete; full

**selective** (si lekt' uv). Making a choice among several.

**sift** (sift). To let fall through (or as if through) a sieve.

**spectator** (spek' tā tur). A person who looks on without taking part.

**tantalizing** (tan' tu līz ing). Tempting; teasing; very desirable but out of reach.

**tasteful** (tāst' ful). Done in good taste.

**tenacious** (ti nā' shus). Holding fast; stubborn.

**topsy-turvy** (top' sē ter' vē). Upside down; in confusion and disorder.

**treachery** (trech' ur ē). A breaking of faith.

**turbulent** (tēr' byu lunt). Disorderly; violent; greatly disturbed.

**waylay** (wā lā'). Attack on the way; stop a person on his way.

**wooden** (wūd un). Stiff as wood; dull; stupid.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

# I. SECTION ONE

This section will introduce to you the wonderful world of words. You will learn some of the major characteristics of poetry and the necessity of an expanded vocabulary. You will increase your understanding of free verse and narrative poems. You will also learn about word inflections and review the use of similes. You will learn to spell some general pattern words and some homonyms, and you will practice handwriting.

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

3. List some of the major characteristics of poetry.
4. Identify effective rhyme and word choice.
6. Identify alliteration, similes, and metaphors.
8. Select and apply word inflections.
9. Spell and use some new homonyms.
10. Identify patterns in words.
11. Write the definitions of some vocabulary words.

**Restudy these words.**

chant	epic	monotonous
constrain	ford	pliant
drowsily	formal	repetition
economy	knots	sated
emphasis	legendary	



## POETIC CHARACTERISTICS

Poetry is not a new word or form to you. When you listen to songs or records, when you hear commercials or jingles, when children **chant** rhymes as they jump rope, you are hearing poetry.

**Rhythm.** Whenever you hear rhythm, you are hearing a little poetry. Nature is full of rhythm. We talk, walk, and work in rhythm. For example, when you listen to a person, you may describe him as a monotonous or boring speaker or you may say he is entertaining or interesting to listen to. This difference is due to rhythm. A monotonous speaker uses poor rhythm. (Don't confuse rhythm with rhyme. We will talk about this difference later in the LIFEPAK.)

Rhythm is one characteristic of poetry. It is a natural, positive movement of sound, in this case, in words. You could describe rhythm as the beat stress or emotional **emphasis** of a word or a group of words.

**Pattern.** Another characteristic of poetry is pattern (**repetition** of something for effect). This characteristic can involve page pattern, line pattern, stanza pattern, word pattern, rhythm pattern, and sound pattern. Some of these patterns are explained in other sections of the LIFEPAK.

**Central idea.** Poetry usually has a central idea, expressed as simply and vividly as possible. In poetry, you need imagination. By being creative and thinking imaginatively, you make thoughts and words sound new and fresh.

**Economy of words.** Because poems are usually short when compared to a short story or a novel, the poet must be extra careful in his choice of words and the way he places them. Unnecessary words use up important space, so the poet throws them out. He wants to express as much as he can in the fewest words possible.

**Economy** of words, therefore, is another characteristic of poetry. Long poems that tell stories are called narrative poems. A ballad is a form of a narrative poem. An **epic** poem also tells a story, but usually it involves a **legendary** hero and tells about his heroic deeds. Even narrative poems, however, must be written with economy of words.

The following poem demonstrates many of the basic characteristics of poetry. The poem has rhythm, as you can tell by the beat. The poem has patterns—a four-line stanza pattern in which alternate lines rhyme. The poem has a central idea—the beautiful swift movement of a fish is like beautiful, swift thoughts of a person. The poem has economy of word—each phrase stands for a larger thought.