

Poetry! Oh my god

When anyone hears the word, "Poetry"

many of us are intimidated and even

scared

at the mere mention of this word, but

I'm here to tell you that you shouldn't

be. People think

that only special people can write

Poetry,

but here I'm here to tell you - "NO!"

that anyone and everyone can write

Poetry,

even you! You must have

heard this famous definition probably

used by

your English teachers very often that

"Poetry is

a spontaneous overflow of powerful

feelings,

recollected in tranquillity." But

Poetry is so much more! Poetry

is an instant connection to your

emotions;

Poetry is used to purge your feelings;

Poetry is used to deal with heartbreak.

to talk about love and happiness,

and it's used to talk about the world

around you,
and I believe that if you follow your
heart
then you can find the poet in you as
well! Hi, everybody,
my name is Andrew Barreto, Assistant
Professor
at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and
Science
(Autonomous) and you're watching a module
in Creative Writing, titled, A Brief
Introduction to
Poetry. This video module is a part of
the second year
BA English SEC Course
titled Creative Writing and the code is
ENS102.
Today, we will be looking at the
definition of Poetry.
You will be introduced to a broad
classification of
poems, and Poetry, and I will be
introducing you
to a few types of Poetry that you should be
exploring
and what will you be learning? Well, you
will learn to identify

various forms of written poems and
spoken poems,
and I hope that by the end of this
module you will be able to discuss
different forms of Poetry and explore
them
with your instructor in the classroom
and out of the classroom. So let's begin!

Poetry is as universal as
language and as ancient.

The most primitive people used it and
the most civilized
cultivated it. It has been written
everywhere - across countries and nations
and regions,
across ages. It has been written in all
places - in rooms
and homes, in the back of your math book,
in trenches or at war, and it has been
written by
everybody - the educated the rustic,
Why is that so? Well, mainly
because it's a pleasurable activity it
is
lovely to write Poetry. It is so
pleasurable to
read and listen to it, but there should

be something more

right? Well, for this we need to define

Poetry. What is Poetry?

Well to be honest, it is easier to

appreciate Poetry rather than

define it. So let us

look at the use of language in Poetry, as

a way to define it.

In Poetry language is used and it says

more and it says more intensely

than any other use of language. In fact,

the simplest use of language

is communication. We use language to

communicate to

inform, to instruct, but Poetry is not

communication.

So i'm sure your question is what is

Poetry then?

Poetry exists to give us a sense,

it exists to give us a perception to

life.

It widens and sharpens our contact with

existence itself. In fact, Poetry is used

to

pen down our experiences, to understand

our life our experiences,

and with this we create new experiences

for

readers through our own. We explore our

truth and we

live more intensely. We are intensely

alive

and all of this is because of - you - reader

because you participate in this process.

So let's look at the broad

classifications of Poetry.

Traditionally if you look at our

references,

you will find that there are three major

classifications of Poetry.

One- Narrative Poetry, Two - Dramatic Poetry

Three - Lyric Poetry and I have added Spoken

Word

as well to this list and you will come

to know why. Let's take a look at

each of these one by one.

Narrative Poetry - it tells us a story and

just like a story, it has

plot and characters and setting and

it reads like a short story, but the

major difference is that it is written

in verse.

It has a rhythm or a beat - the lines are

divided into stanzas

that is, they have the same number of lines and patterns.

Some good examples of Narrative Poetry are the Epic poems

or Mock epic poems, Ballad form

or Arthurian Romances. Moving on,

Dramatic Poetry - In a dramatic poem the speaker is someone other than the poet.

Speakers are characters in themselves- that means they have

attitude, they have a background they have a life from which they speak from,

the best example of Dramatic Poetry are

the dramatic monologues that you will find in plays,

especially in the plays of the master

William

Shakespeare. Let's move on.

Next we have Lyric Poetry -

Lyric Poetry - they are normally short

and they have a musical quality to it in

fact, they're most closely related to song.

So all the songs that you listen to well

all those lyrics can be said to be lyric

Poetry.

And in fact this sort of Poetry is the

most

popular form. Some examples are

Sonnet, ode and the Elegy.

Lastly we have the Spoken Word.

The Spoken Word is a catch-all term to represent

all oral poetic performance and it opens up avenues for

all speakers of English. Therefore Poetry readings, Poetry slams and RAP are examples of

the spoken word format. It gives a listener

a powerful and pleasurable listening experience and the poet focuses on recitation, word play, intonation and voice inflection.

Let's move on to some types of Poetry that you should explore.

First the Ballad form - Just like I explained earlier,

it's a short narrative poem with stanzas of two to four lines

and a repetitive refrain. It deals with folklore or popular legends

and is suitable for singing. How can you explore it?

Why don't you pen down a poem of your
life story, or your parents life story?

Pen down anecdotes and incidents that
have happened to you.

Next the Epic - it's a long narrative poem
and it

unfolds a history and mythology.

It details adventures and deeds of a
hero,

and it through this it tells the story
of a nation,

or a region or a country. In fact it is
the oldest form of Poetry

dating back to the classics. Some
examples are

the Iliad and Beowulf

here's a pro tip i would expect you to
try out the Ballad form before you try
out the Epic form.

Moving on, we have the Blank verse which
is a

formal style of Poetry. It has no set
stanzas or length but

it follows a set meter to achieve poetic
quality. For example

the iambic pentameter and the greats
from Shakespeare to Frost have used it.

But wait don't confuse it with the Free
verse, which
doesn't have such stanzas nor line
length
nor set meter. In fact, i would advise you
to start off writing Poetry
through free verse- pour your heart out
on paper,
listen to the natural rhythm of your
lines, and your voice.

I think that's going to be a great way
to start writing poems.

Next we have the Elegy, which is a poem
of lament,
praise, or consolation it is usually
formal,
and it revolves around the death of a
person, but can also mourn the passing of
events or passions here the underlying
feeling

is that of sadness. So if you want to
explore some sad feelings

I think the elegy would be appropriate.

On the other side of an Elegy you have
the Ode, which
explores happy feelings, often written in
praise of a person

an object, or an event. It tends to be longer in form and generally serious in nature. Explore this by writing an Ode to your best friend, or a loved one.

Moving on, the Sonnet, which is the most popular form of poem, traditionally speaking though. It had two major styles - the English sonnet and the Italian sonnet, and both followed a 14 line long pattern, broken up into eight and six lines.

It is normally written in iambic pentameter and follows the rhyme scheme a b a b c d c d e f e f gg, of course with variations.

The focus of a sonnet is usually on love. Lastly, we have the Spoken form, which is an extremely popular modern form of Poetry.

There is no set line pattern nor stanza pattern. It allows for a lot of experimentations.

Here, you will need to focus on the quality of sound, word play, and message. So

explore your poems

by finding out your voice through

the Spoken Word format. Here

another pro tip - there are lots of groups

in Goa

which organize open-mics, why don't you

join them

and explore your voice through them.

To conclude, you have been introduced to

a variety of poems today now it is up to

you to explore them within the classroom,

and it is up to you to start writing

poems, and I believe

that if you do you will find the poet in

you

here are a few references for you to

follow up on.

And with this I bid you adieu! I am

Andrew Barreto, Assistant Professor at

Parvatibai Chowgule college

of Arts and Science Autonomous. Welcome

to the world of Poetry, Dear future poets!!

Thank you!