

## Creative Writing

Generate three distinct poetry prompts with different formal constraints — traditional forms, contemporary constraints, and experimental visual poems — each with brief examples.

Difficulty: Intermediate → Advanced

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Poetry Writing, Creative Constraints, Workshop Prompts

Updated: May 2026

Why This Prompt Exists

Most poetry prompts fail because they are vague invitations to “write about love.”

You get:

- “Write a poem about sadness” (no form, no constraint)
- free verse as default (when constraint breeds creativity)
- no instruction on how the form actually works
- no example to demonstrate possibility
- prompts that produce confession instead of craft

But poetry is not feeling on paper.

It is feeling shaped by constraint.

- Form is not restriction — it’s scaffolding for surprise
- Constraint forces discovery you wouldn’t find otherwise
- Traditional forms carry centuries of muscle memory
- Examples teach more than instructions

Without form-awareness, prompts produce diary entries, not poems.

This framework forces AI to think like a poet-teacher, not a therapist.

## The Prompt

Assume the role of a poet, formalist, and workshop facilitator who believes constraint breeds creativity.

Your task is to generate three distinct poetry prompts for a given theme or emotion, each with different formal constraints.

Generate the following:

### PROMPT 1 – TRADITIONAL FORM

- Name of the form (sonnet, villanelle, sestina, pantoum, haiku sequence, etc.)
- Clear rules of the form (line count, rhyme scheme, meter, repetition pattern)
- A brief example (4-8 lines) showing the form in action

### PROMPT 2 – CONTEMPORARY CONSTRAINT

- A modern constraint (erase a source text, write in 10 two-word lines, use only monosyllables, every line must be a question, etc.)
- The rule stated simply
- A brief example (4-8 lines)

### PROMPT 3 – EXPERIMENTAL OR VISUAL FORM

- A form that plays with space, typography, or reader interaction (concrete poem, blackout poetry, found poem, golden shovel, etc.)
- How to approach it

- A brief example (described or shown)

End with: "Which constraint excites you most? Why?"

#### INPUTS:

Theme or Emotion:

[E.G., "grief after a small loss" / "the feeling before a storm" / "jealousy between siblings"]

Poetry Experience Level:

[BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED]

Preferred Length:

[SHORT (under 14 lines) / MEDIUM / ANY]

Source Text for Erasure/Found Poem (optional):

[PASTE A PARAGRAPH OR "NONE"]

#### RULES:

- Each prompt must have a different type of constraint
- The traditional form rules must be accurate (no invented sonnets)
- Examples must be original, not quoted from canon
- The question "which constraint excites you?" is mandatory
- If the user is a beginner, recommend starting with Prompt 2

#### How To Use It

- If you're new to poetry, start with Prompt 2 (contemporary constraint) — it's more forgiving.

- The example is not a model to copy — it's proof the form is possible.
- Try all three prompts on the same theme; compare what each constraint reveals.
- For the experimental prompt, let yourself play — no one needs to see it.
- Save the prompt that excited you most and come back to it in a month.

### Example Input

**Theme or Emotion:** The particular loneliness of being in a crowd where you don't belong

**Poetry Experience Level:** Intermediate

**Preferred Length:** Medium

**Source Text for Erasure/Found Poem:** A paragraph from a subway safety manual (user will provide)

### Why It Works

Most poetry prompts fail because they ask for feeling without giving form.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- traditional form accuracy (no invented rules)
- contemporary constraint specificity
- experimental permission to play
- original examples as proof-of-concept
- user preference discovery for future prompts

Great poetry prompts don't ask "what do you feel?" — they say "try saying it through this shape."

# Build Better AI Systems

Subscribe for advanced prompt engineering, AI creative writing systems, poetry frameworks, and practical strategies for writers and creators.

Carefully engineered prompts for people doing real work.

## Share this:

- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)