

Task: Write two different styles and forms of poems based on ideas, descriptions, characters or emotions you encountered in the classic story you read. One should be lyrical, one narrative and one should be one of your choosing. Student name withheld.

Alcott, Louisa May 2004, Little Women, Hinkler Books Pty Ltd, Victoria.
Cuddon, J A 1998, The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory, Penguin Books, Victoria.

A narrative poem is a poem which tells a story. It can focus on the story or the characters in the story as below.

Little Women

Sisters from birth,
All gentle and kind,
They share laughter and love,
Linking heart and mind.

Meg's beauty profound,
Such perfect features,
A sight to behold,
One of God's loveliest creatures.

And tomboy Jo,
So kind and courageous,
So full of ideas,
Both bold and outrageous.

In contrast Beth,
So shy and demure,
A perfect little angel,
So beautiful and pure.

And finally Amy,
Headstrong and proud,
She knows her own mind.
And states it out loud.

Four sisters together,
Unite talents galore,
With their father away,
In the civil war.

Their mother's support,
Her comfort and aid,
Her four young daughters
Help her not be afraid.

Together their heartbreak,
Their joy and their tears,
Hold them together,
Through the years.

A Lyric is usually a fairly short poem, not more than sixty lines. It expresses the feelings and thoughts of a single speaker, not necessarily the poet himself, and in a personal and subjective way. Lyrics comprise the bulk of all poetry.

JOSEPHINE MARCH

My name is Jo March,
I have three dear sisters,
We all take care of each other,
And love each other to pieces.

We all care for our mother,
In times of happiness and pain,
Our father is fighting in the war,
He loves us all the same.

Oh, how I love to write,
I have a mind of my own,
Some creative ideas,
Sometimes I like to be alone.

I love to write stories,
To express how I feel,
One day they'll get published,
That would be ideal.

I'm sturdy, brave,
And maybe a little bold.
I show great leadership,
Yet my future unsolved.

I love my family,
We're truehearted and kind,
Looking after those in need,
With unique talents we bind.

OUR BELOVED BETH

Oh dear Beth,
What a beautiful soul,
Who cared for everyone,
But which Death stole.

She cared for all
Who walked into her life,
Always putting herself last,
Never causing any strife.

Compassionate, kind
And a little shy,
Always doing her duties,
Never asking why.

Oh how she'll be missed,
By all she inspired,
Every life that she touched,
By all, so admired.
