

Narrative Poetry



- Narrative poetry is one of the simplest ways of writing in verse because there is only one basic rule: **THE POEM MUST TELL A STORY.**
- Narratives, whether they are told in prose or verse, are concerned with **CHARACTERS, CONTEXTS** (time, place and situation) and **CONFLICT.**
- Narrative poets often focus on the **THOUGHTS** and **FEELINGS** of their protagonists and, sometimes, only suggest some of the details of their stories.
 - This forces readers to use their imaginations and participate in the creative process in order to fill in the missing pieces.
- A **BALLAD** is a narrative poem that has a musical rhythm to it and can be sung.

"My Hands"

by Takeo Nakano



My hands tremble
As I sign my naturalization papers
Making me a Canadian citizen
And Canada my final resting place.

"Day After Day..."

by Wang Hung Kung



Day after day the rain falls.
Week after week the grass grows.
Year after year the river flows.
Seventy years, seventy years,
The wheel of dreams revolves.

- 1) To what extent do these poems suggest a complete story? Explain.
- 2) What stories do these poems tell?
- 3) Which of these poems tells the best story? Why?
- 4) How are these poems similar to short stories? How are they different?

Saliani, Dom, Jeff Siamon, Janet Hannaford, Lori Farren, Cam MacPherson, David Friend.
Imprints 11. Toronto: Gage Learning Corporation, 2001.