

How to Craft a Nostalgic Poem

Disclaimer:

Before you proceed, I attended Oxford University at the tender age of 14. This was a government-issued programme called Gifted and Talented. This group focused on individuals who progressed faster than those in classes. This was a turning point in my life as I was introduced to life at university, giving credibility to all my creative work.

I studied English literature creative writing and mathematics more formally in university with a course to test my understanding of the subject with that in mind. Now I am more than capable and inclined to educate others as I passed this unit in the Oxford visit.

What is a Poem?

Traditionally, a poem is a piece of writing that expresses a writer's feelings or the feelings of a persona. A poem was classified by the analysis of the language. This posed problems as individual classification varied from individual to individual.

What is NOT a Poem? A Prose

A Prose is not an example of a poem. A prose such as William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet has certain characteristics of a poem. However, due to the nature of it facilitating the speech/ dialogue between Romeo and Juliet. It is not about an individual it is about two lovers. This prose feels like a poem with its intricate dance of rhythm and rhymes which will be discussed further. It is creative craft showing not telling of characters' emotion love for each other.

Techniques for Craft Nostalgic Poems:

Show , Don't Tell

Showing Don't Tell is a Framework for crafting beautiful story of any size. It is focused on the principle of giving a imagery that users feel in the story. I have created a new show don't tell addition framework focused on story telling to be adapted for poems.

The problem is that traditional framework such as AFOREST, PEDAL, PEELIA Paragraphs are focused objectively to informal rewriting. As a creative writer it is important to remember to implement CRISIS, PIVOTS and EMOTION to craft nostalgic poem and engaging fiction.

Types of Poems

Poem still classed it is to research what type of poem works for you.

What should I explore?

Theme dictates the setting of the poem and 5W Who, What, When, Why, Where is explicated. How it is explored is for the writer to decide. Your goal as a poet is to systematically paint a picture in the mind of the reader given them something nostalgic to remember.

Exploring abstract Concepts

Abstract Ideas are foundation to nostalgic poetry this is because

How to show ,and not tell?

C — Character

Your characters are the heart of the story. Readers must care about them, root for them, or even fear them. Focus on giving each character depth, quirks, and motivations that drive their actions.

Tip: Avoid flat characters. Even villains need a reason behind their actions.

R — Relationships

Stories are fuelled by relationships — whether they are between friends, enemies, or lovers. Conflict within relationships creates tension and emotional investment for readers.

Tip: Make sure the relationships evolve throughout the story, whether positively or negatively.

I — Internal Conflict

Every character should have inner turmoil. This conflict doesn't just move the plot forward; it deepens the emotional stakes. Whether it's fear, self-doubt, or moral dilemmas, internal conflict adds complexity.

Tip: Give your protagonist a personal struggle that parallels their external obstacles.

S — Stakes

What's at risk? Stakes keep readers on the edge of their seats. Whether it's physical danger, emotional loss, or a missed opportunity, stakes should be clear and significant.

Tip: Continually raise the stakes to increase tension as the story progresses.

I — Inciting Incident

This is the catalyst that sets the story in motion. It disrupts the character's normal life and forces them into the main conflict of the story.

Tip: The inciting incident should happen early and create urgency in the narrative.

S — Setting

The setting is more than just a backdrop. It influences mood, affects characters' decisions, and can even become a character itself. A well-crafted setting adds depth and texture to the story.

Tip: Use sensory details to immerse readers in the world of your story.

PIVOTS: Crafting Dynamic Story Arcs

The PIVOTS framework — Pacing, Imagery, Voice, Obstacles, Tension, and Subtext — helps guide the structure and flow of your narrative. This is where you control how the story unfolds, drawing readers in and holding their attention.

P — Pacing

Pacing dictates the speed at which your story moves. It should vary to maintain interest. Faster pacing is suited for action, while slower pacing allows for reflection and emotional development.

Tip: Alternate between fast and slow scenes to create a natural rhythm in your storytelling.

I — Imagery

Vivid descriptions help readers visualize scenes and experience emotions more deeply. Whether it's a stormy night or the warmth of a hearth, imagery is crucial for building atmosphere.

Tip: Use metaphors and sensory details to create memorable visuals.

V — Voice

The voice is the unique tone and style of both your characters and the narrator. It must be distinct and consistent throughout the story, reflecting the personality and mood of your narrative.

Tip: Experiment with first-person, third-person, or omniscient narration to see what best fits your story.

O — Obstacles

Obstacles create conflict and propel the plot forward. Without obstacles, the story becomes stagnant. Every time a character solves one problem, another should arise.

Tip: Make the obstacles progressively harder, testing your character's resolve.

T — Tension

Tension is the emotional charge that keeps readers engaged. Whether it's a slow-burning sense of dread or a fast-paced chase, tension is key to maintaining interest.

Tip: Use cliffhangers and unresolved questions to build tension across scenes.

S — Subtext

Subtext is the underlying meaning that isn't stated outright. It adds depth and complexity, especially in dialogue and character interactions. What's left unsaid often speaks volumes.

Tip: Use subtext to create subtle tension or to reveal hidden aspects of a character's motivation.

EMOTION: The Heart of Fiction

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The EMOTION framework — Emotion, Motivation, Obstacles, Theme, Imagery, Observation, Narrative Voice — focuses on ensuring your story resonates emotionally with the reader. Readers should feel something when they engage with your fiction.

E — Emotion

Every scene should evoke some kind of emotion, whether it's excitement, sadness, fear, or joy. The deeper the emotional connection, the more invested readers will become.

Tip: Tap into universal emotions like love, fear, or anger to ensure your story resonates broadly.

M — Motivation

Your characters' actions must be driven by clear motivations. Why do they do what they do? Whether it's love, revenge, or survival, motivation is key to understanding your characters.

Tip: Make motivations complex, especially for antagonists. Villains often believe they are justified.

O — Obstacles

Obstacles are not only physical but can also be emotional or psychological. The more obstacles your character overcomes, the more satisfying their journey becomes.

Tip: Use both internal and external obstacles to challenge your characters.

T — Theme

Theme is the underlying message or idea in your story. It ties everything together and adds depth to the plot.

Tip: Don't be afraid to explore complex themes like sacrifice, redemption, or freedom

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I — Imagery

As in PIVOTS, imagery helps bring your story to life. Strong visual elements create emotional responses in readers.

Tip: Use imagery that mirrors the emotions or themes of your story.

O — Observation

Observation helps you bring subtlety into your characters' interactions and the world they inhabit. By showing small details, you allow readers to infer deeper meanings.

Tip: Trust your readers to pick up on clues without explaining everything.

N — Narrative Voice

Your narrative voice should align with the tone and mood of the story. Whether you're telling a sombre tale or a humorous adventure, make sure the voice remains consistent.

Tip: Experiment with tone, sentence structure, and vocabulary to create a unique narrative voice.

How to create Perfect Rhythm and Rhymes?

To form a rhyme here is an algorithm:

1. create a phrase and count its syllabus
2. create a second phrase with the number of syllabus

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3. Join the two in a sentence and it will form a rhyme.
4. This is the formal definite of a rhyming.

Tip 1 to perfect: Chose you vocab with intent.

The tokens /words used give weight to the rhythm. Choosing the correct words make or break the poem . The context semantic meaning of the poem must align with a clear objective .This means to be easily understood with a clear an concise meaning.

How to add Rhythm?

Rythme appears naturally when rhyme, how perfec trythme give a music queue or beat making a poem more memorable nostalgic. Our focus here is to create a pattern in the read mind that gibes people our feelings we are trying to show.

Tip 2 to perfect:

Add rythme when you have dictated the flow of vocabulary after the draft. Unlerss you are musication this is a post step. Some musican should consider add the music beat first.