


Poetry Revision Checklist

Title of Poem: _____ Date: _____


1. Language & Word Choice

- Are there any vague or generic words I could replace with more specific ones?
- Have I used strong, active verbs?
- Have I trimmed unnecessary words or clutter?
- Do the words sound good when read aloud? (Rhythm, flow, musicality)

 *Example:* Replace "walked slowly" with "drifted" or "crept," depending on tone.


2. Imagery & Sensory Details

- Have I used fresh, original images?
- Do at least 3 senses appear in the poem (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell)?
- Do the images support the mood or theme of the poem?

 *Try this:* Highlight all sensory language. Too sparse? Add more texture.

3. Meaning & Theme


- What is the emotional core or central idea of this poem?
- Is that idea coming through clearly or is it buried too deep?
- Are there lines that feel out of place or distract from the theme?

 *Write in the margin:* "This line is really about _____."

4. Voice & Tone


- Is the voice consistent throughout?
- Is the tone (playful, dark, dreamy, etc.) fitting the content?

- Could adjusting tone make the poem stronger or more surprising?

 *Experiment:* Rewrite a stanza with a totally different tone—what changes?


5. Sound & Structure

- Have I used sound devices (alliteration, assonance, rhythm, rhyme)?
- Do line breaks add to the meaning, pacing, or emotion?
- Does the structure support the poem (form, stanza breaks, punctuation)?

 *Read it aloud:* Where do you stumble? What lines feel clunky?

6. Final Polish

- Are there clichés I can rewrite or remove?
- Have I double-checked spelling and grammar (if intentional, is it clear)?
- Did I take risks or experiment somewhere in the poem?
- Am I proud of this version?

 *Gut check:* What's your favorite line? Least favorite?

Notes:

Next revision goal: