



# FORM: OPEN

*Open Form* = poems that have neither a rime scheme nor a basic meter, but instead seek a format that reinforces the subject matter in an organic manner.

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- 🌐 Specimen: “in just—“ by e. e. cummings
- 🌐 Specimen: “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”  
by Wallace Stevens

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## Checklist: Thinking about Line Breaks

- 🌐 Read the poem, paying attention to where its lines end.
- 🌐 Do the breaks tend to come at the end of sentences or phrases?
- 🌐 Do they tend to come in the middle of an idea?
- 🌐 Do the lines tend to be long? Short? A mix of both?
- 🌐 Is the poem broken into stanzas? Are they long? Short? A mix of both?
- 🌐 What mood is created by the breaks?
- 🌐 How do the line and stanza breaks reinforce the poem's meaning as a whole?

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- 🌐 Specimen: “The Colonel” by Carolyn Forché
- 🌐 Specimen: “First Love: A Quiz” by A. E. Stallings