

This is the opening to *Casabianca* by Felicia Hemans.

A boy is standing on a ship which is now in flames.

'The boy stood on the burning deck,
Whence all but he had fled;
The flame that lit the battle's wreck,
Shone round him o'er the dead.

Yet beautiful and bright he stood,
As born to rule the storm;
A creature of heroic blood,
A proud, though childlike form.

The flames rolled on – he would not go,
Without his father's word;
That father, faint in death below,
His voice no longer heard.'

- 1. What should you do when you first start examining the form of a poem?**
- 2. Now look at the stanzas. How many lines are there?**
- 3. Now look for rhymes. What is the rhyme scheme?**
- 4. Now, let's focus on the rhythm. Read the poem aloud and see which of these statements is true?**
- 5. Now, using this information, let's see if we can identify the form. What is the form of this poem?**
- 6. Finally, we should think about the writer's intention. Why is this form important to the ideas in the poem?**

