Poetry Copying Handwriting Worksheet: Preserve Line Breaks and Stanza Spacing

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A model poem has one stanza of four lines and a second stanza of three lines. The marked stanza gap is one blank ruled line. State the total number of copy lines needed, including the gap line, and explain where the gap goes.

Answer: Eight copy lines are needed: four lines for stanza one, one blank ruled line for the stanza gap, and three lines for stanza two. The gap goes after the fourth line and before the first line of stanza two.

Reason: Add the line counts: 4 + 3 = 7 poem lines. Add one gap line: 7 + 1 = 8 copy lines. The gap separates the stanzas, so it sits between line four and line five of the poem.

Check: Count the poem lines in the model (4 + 3 = 7), add the one gap line, and confirm the total is 8. Then check that the gap is placed after the last line of the first stanza.

Task 2

A learner copies a two-stanza poem but writes the first stanza's three lines on two copy lines by combining two short lines. The second stanza has two lines copied correctly, and there is one stanza gap. Compare the copied line count with the model and state one fix.

Answer: The model has 3 + 2 = 5 poem lines. The copy has 2 + 2 = 4 poem lines, so one line break was lost. The fix is to put the combined short lines on separate copy lines so the first stanza has three lines.

Reason: The copy is short by one line because two model lines were merged. The stanza gap count is correct, but the line structure inside the first stanza is wrong.

Check: Count the model lines per stanza (3 and 2) and the copied lines per stanza (2 and 2). The first stanza is short by one line, so rewrite that stanza with one line per model line.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

The measured line spacing on a test sheet is 9 mm. A hypothetical stanza gap of 18 mm is proposed. Using the rule that the stanza gap must be larger than the line spacing, state whether 18 mm satisfies the rule and give one simple check the learner can use on the paper.

Answer: Yes, 18 mm is larger than 9 mm, so it satisfies the rule. A simple check is to count ruled lines: if the line spacing is 9 mm, an 18 mm gap equals two line spaces, so the learner can leave two blank ruled lines and confirm the gap is visibly larger than one line space.

Reason: The rule compares the gap with the line spacing. 18 mm is twice 9 mm, so the gap is clearly larger. The numerical values are hypothetical examples and should be replaced by measurements from the actual paper.

Check: Measure the actual line spacing and the actual gap with a ruler in the same units. Confirm the gap is greater than the line spacing, and count the blank ruled lines to keep the gap consistent.

Task 4

A copied poem is legible, sits on the baseline, and has even word spacing, but the learner used joined letters while the model used unjoined letters. The line count and stanza gap count match the model. Using the rubric, state whether the copy should be accepted and why.

Answer: The copy should be accepted. The rubric judges legibility, baseline placement, consistent x-height, and preserved line and stanza structure. Joined letters are a valid style difference, and the line count and stanza gap count match the model.

Reason: The rubric does not require matching the model's letter style. It requires a readable copy with correct structure. Since the copy is legible and the structure matches, the style difference does not lower the score.

Check: Check the rubric items one by one: line count matches, stanza gap count matches, gap size is at least the marked gap, letters sit on the baseline, x-height is consistent, and the copy is legible. Confirm that joined letters are allowed.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line count matches the model in every stanza.
- [ ] Stanza gap count matches the model.
- [ ] Each stanza gap is at least as large as the marked gap on the sheet.
- [ ] Letters sit on the baseline and x-height is consistent within each line.
- [ ] Word spacing is even and the copy is legible to another reader.
- [ ] Joined or unjoined letters are both acceptable; style differences do not lower the score if legibility and structure are preserved.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?