

THOU SHALT NOT WHINE

This chapter is a refrain poem in a modified narrative style. It must include a setting, characters, plot, point of view, conflict, tone, and theme. It may also include limited direct dialogue.

Write four stanzas of five lines each; the last of each stanza should be the second of the two line refrain between stanzas.

Each stanza should have a separate setting and include appropriate characters for that setting. In the example below, notice that the first stanza deals with schoolwork, the second with a game, the third is set at home, and the final one deals with a social life gone awry.

Choose an overall tone (for this poem you might choose humorous, whiney, sad, sarcastic, angry) that all stanzas have in common. This is a complaint poem so your tone choices are limited. Each stanza might have a different conflict or you may choose to tell about an overall conflict that all settings have in common. **Don't forget to have each line connect to the following one by cause and effect.** Finally, choose to **tell your poem by either first person or third person.**

Thou Shalt Not Whine Example Page

I have a composition due in Extended Enrichment language arts
The Teacher announced a test in science
I have to memorize ten vocabulary words in French
Twenty math problems were assigned for homework tonight
I am so tired, and I want to sleep.

The day is endless

I'm so tired, and I want to sleep.

I have soccer practice, and it's pouring
Tomorrow is the big game against Edgewood
A ten-minute ride on a noisy, crowded bus
The biggest contest -- "Will we win or lose?"
I am so tired, and I want to sleep.

The day is endless
I'm so tired, and I want to sleep.

Work tonight from five to when???
Answering questions and trying not to snooze
Stopping just long enough for a bite to eat
The TV haunts me and increases the doom
I am so tired, and I want to sleep.

The day is endless
I'm so tired, and I want to sleep.

I have to rush now; It's getting late
There's another phone call, but I feel faint
I'm overworked and overwhelmed
I need to relax by talking to my friends, but . . .
I am so tired, and I want to sleep.

The day is endless
I'm so tired, and I want to sleep.