Is it poetry or is it prose?
Read the following text. Is it poetry? Is it prose? Prose is written or spoken language in its ordinary form without metrical structure. How would you define poetry?

Read the following texts. After reading, decide which text is poetry and why. Justify your answer with specific details from the text.

In the Well
By Andrew Hudgens

My father cinched the rope like a noose around my waist and lowered me into the darkness. I could taste my fear. It tasted first of dark, then earth, then rot. I swung and struck my head and at that moment got another then: then blood, which spiked my mouth with iron. Hand over hand, my father dropped me from then to then: then water. Then wet fur, which I hugged to my chest. I shouted. Daddy hauled the wet rope. I gagged, and pressed my neighbor’s missing dog against me. I held its death and rose up to my father. Then light. Then hands. Then breath.

What about if we structure these same words differently?

In The Well
by Andrew Hudgins

My father cinched the rope, a noose around my waist, and lowered me into the darkness. I could taste my fear. It tasted first of dark, then earth, then rot. I swung and struck my head and at that moment got another then: then blood, which spiked my mouth with iron. Hand over hand, my father dropped me from then to then: then water. Then wet fur, which I hugged to my chest.
I shouted. Daddy hauled
the wet rope. I gagged, and pressed

my neighbor’s missing dog
against me. I held its death
and rose up to my father.
Then light. Then hands. Then breath.

Would you call either of these two texts a poem? Which one and why?

My text choice for a poem (first or second):

Reasons why I think this version is a poem:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Complete the chart below …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading poetry is like...</th>
<th>Reading Poetry is not like...</th>
<th>A poem has to have...</th>
<th>A poem doesn’t have to have...</th>
<th>Poetry is...</th>
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