**Free Verse**

Free Verse and Blank Verse are two different forms of poetry that are often confused but have distinct characteristics.

**Definition of Free verse:**

Free verse is a form of poetry that does not adhere to any regular meter, rhyme scheme, or rhythmic pattern. Thus, its advantage is that it allows the poet freedom to write lines of varying lengths and to structure their poem without being constrained by traditional poetic forms.

The characteristics of free verse are discussed in the followings-

1. It has no fixed rhyme scheme.
2. It is not consistent to meter, means there is no regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.
3. The poets are free to experiment with line lengths, punctuation, and stanza breaks to create their desired effects.

One example of free verse can be taken from American poet Walt Whitman’s "Song of Myself"-

“I celebrate myself, and sing myself,

And what I assume you shall assume,

For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.”

(Here, in the above-mentioned stanza, Whitman uses free verse to create a flowing, natural rhythm that mimics everyday speech)

Key differences between Blank verse and Free verse:

The differences between Blank verse and Free verse can be observed on the basis of the following points-

1. **Rhyme scheme and meter:**

Free Verse has no consistent meter or rhyme. But Blank Verse is consistent to meter (iambic pentameter) but no rhyme.

1. **Structure:**

Free Verse is highly flexible in terms of structure, rhythm, and line length. Whereas, Blank Verse can be rigid in terms of meter but flexible in terms of rhyme.

1. **Purpose:**

Free Verse is a modern technique applied to poetry to convey freedom of expression and spontaneity. On the other hand, Blank Verse has been traditionally used in English poetry and drama, especially observed in the Shakespearean plays or epic poems.