



Rosc

... a really ancient type of Irish poem.

Rosc is an ancient form of unrhymed Old Irish verse that uses alliteration and regular metre

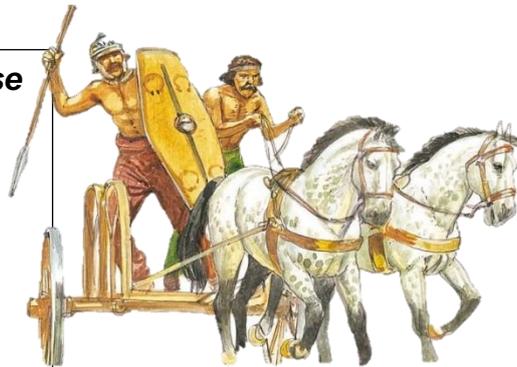
Rosc is very old. The very first stories were told through this type of poetry. The form was used to describe both the setting of a story and the action. It was a good way of describing a battle. It can be hard for us to understand today especially because they were originally written in a very old style of Irish.

Let's try a very simple version inspired by the Rosc form. We will start with two words in each line.

Each line keeps one word, throws one away and chooses one new word. It's easy!

The warriors in the stories loved horse racing. Let's try a poem inspired by this sport.

Horses trembling
Trembling tails
Tails waving
Waving Crowds
Crowds waiting
Waiting Chariots
Chariots rumbling
Rumbling wheels
Wheels Flashing
Flashing Eyes
Eyes sparkling
Sparkling Hooves
Hooves Drumming
Drumming Hearts
Hearts Wild
Wild racing
Racing Swift
Swift as the wind they fly.



Now try a poem for yourself.
What story will you tell?

The poet story tellers were not just entertainers. They:

- Recorded what happened
- Gave news reports
- Held talks and made treaties with other Tuaths
- Made sure even the king kept the law
- Knew about the history and geography of the land
- Made praise poems and sometimes 'blame' poems (satires)
- *And* told stories

