**Refrain Poetry Assignment**

**Definition of Refrain Poetry**

The word 'Refrain' derives from the Old French word refraindre meaning to repeat. A Refrain is a verse or phrase that is repeated at intervals throughout a song or poem, usually after the [stanza](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/stanza.php).

<http://www.types-of-poetry.org.uk/37-refrain-poetry-type.htm>

http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/refrain.php

**Examples**

“Dreams” by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

“Drums” by Johnny Cash

From the Indian reservation to the governmental school   
Well they're goin' to educate me to the white men's Golden Rule   
And I'm learning very quickly for I've learned to be ashamed   
And I come when they call Billy though I've got an Indian name

And there are drums beyond the mountain

Indian drums that you can't hear   
There are drums beyond the mountain

and they're getting mighty near

When they think that they'd changed me cut my hair to meet their needs   
Will they think I'm white or Indian quarter blood or just half breed   
Let me tell you Mr teacher when you say you'll make me right   
In five hundred years of fighting not one Indian turned white

And there are drums beyond the mountain

Indian drums that you can't hear   
There are drums beyond the mountain

and they're getting mighty near   
  
Well you thought that I knew nothing when you brought me here to school   
Just another empty Indian just America's first fool   
But now I can tell you stories that are burnt and dried and old   
But in the shadow of their telling walks the thunder proud and bold

And there are drums beyond the mountain

Indian drums that you can't hear   
There are drums beyond the mountain

and they're getting mighty near

The cat so silent  
Lay curled up on the rug  
The fire a blaze  
The room so snug.

Purring, purring  
Quiet and still  
Purring, purring  
Content from his fill.

Tatters the cat  
Big, fat cat.

He had just eaten  
A dinner of fish  
What a treat to have  
Filling up his dish.

Purring, purring  
Quiet and still  
Purring, purring  
Content from his fill.

Tatters the cat  
Big, fat cat.