**SIX ELEMENTS OF NARRATIVE VERSE**

* **TOPIC:** The subject matter has a beginning, middle and end. Sometimes the ending comes first, the beginning second and the middle last -or some other combination- however innovative narratives contain all three.
* **THEME:** The underlayment of meaning that runs through the narrative poem. Any action in a narrative should illustrate the theme.
* **VOICE:** The voice of a narrative poem should be aligned with the subject matter. The poet must make a determination to use first person (I/We) or third person (he/she/they) to tell the story.
* **VIEWPOINT:** Each person or character who can convey the drama or conflict in a narrative does so from a different viewpoint. Use viewpoint that will have the maximum impact. It is not necessarily yours. If it is yours use a narrator. If it isn’t, use a storyteller and relate the poem through another character’s eyes. Who’s eyes is the poem best depicted or told.
* **MOMENT:** A poet must choose a point in time to relate events in a narrative poem. Here are three possibilities:

1. Close to when an event happened, so details and scenes are fresh and unravel as if we were there.
2. Relatively close to when an event happened, so we have some perspective about the meaning of those details or scenes.
3. Removed from when an event happened, so our perspective is more important than the details or scenes of the poem.

\*keep in mind that the moment of a narrative poem is not the time or date something happened- it is the moment the reader is allowed to enter the story\*

* **ENDING:**

1. Open Ending: The conclusion is not spelled out or explained but illustrated with an image or scene that implies it.
2. Closed Ending: The conclusion is stated, wrapping up loose ends.