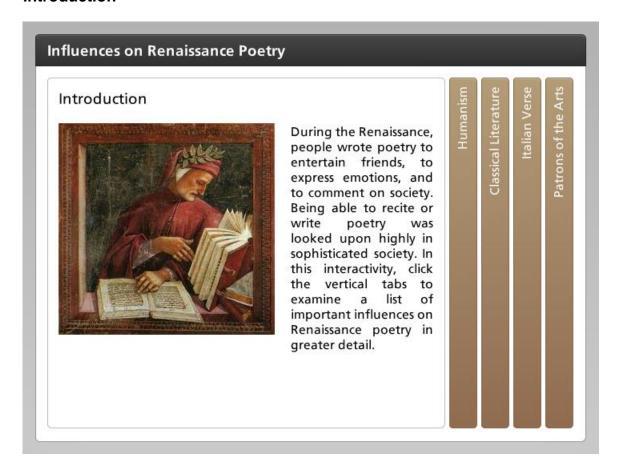
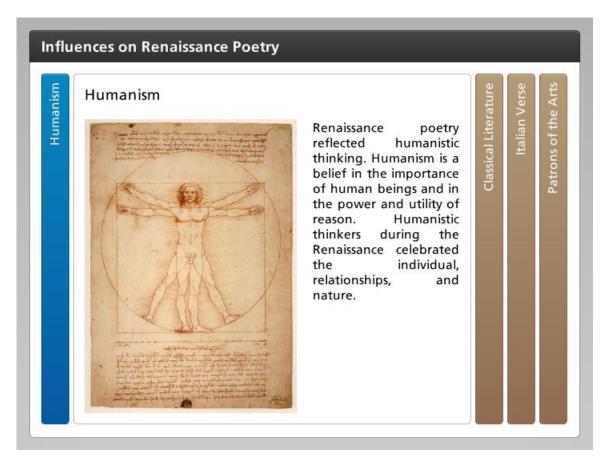
Introduction



During the Renaissance, people wrote poetry to entertain friends, to express emotions, and to comment on society. Being able to recite or write poetry was looked upon highly in sophisticated society. In this interactivity, click the vertical tabs to examine a list of important influences on Renaissance poetry in greater detail.



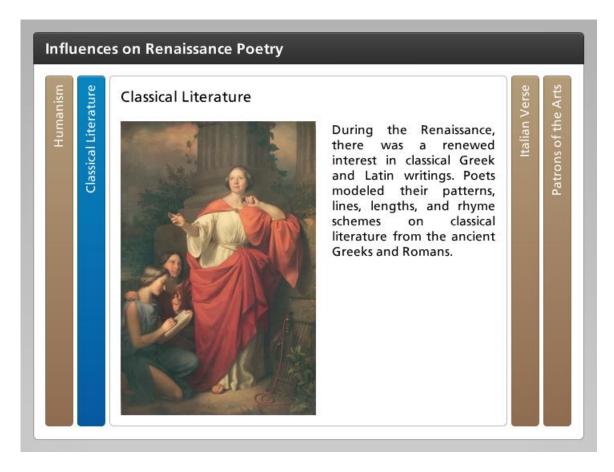
Humanism



Renaissance poetry reflected humanistic thinking. Humanism is a belief in the importance of human beings and in the power and utility of reason. Humanistic thinkers during the Renaissance celebrated the individual, relationships, and nature.



Classical Literature



During the Renaissance, there was a renewed interest in classical Greek and Latin writings. Poets modeled their patterns, lines, lengths, and rhyme schemes on classical literature from the ancient Greeks and Romans.



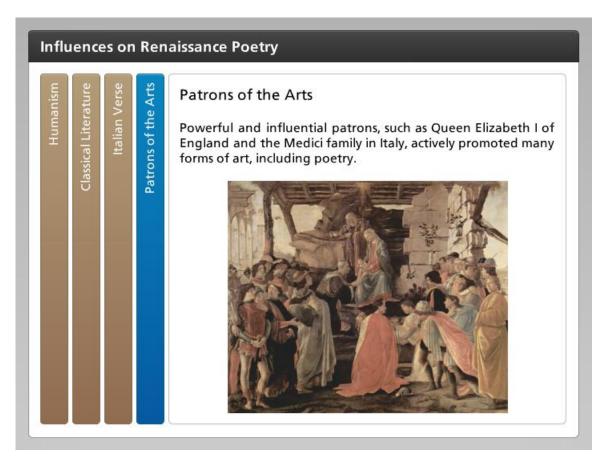
Italian Verse



Many Renaissance poets used a poetic form known as the sonnet, which originated in Italy during the 13th century. Francesco Petrarch, an Italian poet who lived during the 14th century, is credited with perfecting the sonnet form.



Patrons of the Arts



Powerful and influential patrons, such as Queen Elizabeth I of England and the Medici family in Italy, actively promoted many forms of art, including poetry.

