

Poetry Forms

Dylan Thomas Couplet

A Dylan Thomas Portrait is a type of poetry that tries to get people to use words in an adventurous way. Each portrait tries to capture the essence or basic nature of its subject.

Step 1.

Write a question like this:

Have you ever seen a _____?

or

Have you ever heard a _____?

Step 2.

Then write four adjectives followed by nouns:

clever - class

growing - genius

Here is an example:

Have you ever seen a disco?

Dazzling-lights, hip-hop-dancers,

Elvis-like-impersonators, weird wigs

Ezra Pound Couplet

An Ezra Pound couplet consists of two rhymed lines of verse approximately the same length. This poem should express a metaphor:

A rat running in the sewers

A human walking to work

A duckling trying to fly

A baby learning to walk

Haiku

Haiku is a well known type of Japanese poetry that depends upon the number of syllables. This poem is usually seventeen syllables arranged in three lines; it is possible to steal a syllable from one line to complete another, but the total must be seventeen. You must carefully select words and place them in the pattern:

line one _____ five syllables

line two _____ seven syllables

line three _____ five syllables

The first two lines should create a vivid picture and the third line should provide some insight into the picture. These poems should concern themselves with nature.

Shape Poem

This is a free-form poem published in the shape of something which exists in real life, in this instance it could be in the shape of a leaf, animal or buttress root.

Cinquain

There are two types of cinquains. The first type of cinquain is a word cinquain. This form is arranged in five lines with a specific word count.

Word Cinquain

line one _____ title (one word)

line two _____ _____ description of title (two words)

line three _____ _____ _____ action of the title (three words)

line four _____ _____ _____ _____ feeling about the title (four words)

line five _____ synonym for the title (one word)

Syllable Cinquain

This form is also five lines long with a specific syllable count form:

line one _____ _____ title (two syllables)

line two _____ _____ _____ _____ description of the title (four syllables)

line three _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ action of the title (six syllables)

line four _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ feeling about the title (eight syllables)

line five _____ _____ synonym for the title (two syllables)