### Poetry Project Examples

#### Five Step Poem

The five-step poem has five lines with a special format:

- The first line is one noun
- The second line is two adjectives separated by commas,
- The third line is three verbs separated by commas
- The fourth line is one phrase,
- The fifth line repeats the noun.

*Example of Five Step Poem*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free, shapeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding, escaping, growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreads throughout the room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tanka

The tanka, like the haiku, has a specific format with a specific number of lines and syllables in each line. It has five lines with the formula:

- line one has five syllables,
- line two has seven syllables,
- line three has five syllables,
- line four has seven syllables
- line five has seven syllables.

*Example of Tanka*

| Chemistry is the science of changing matter. |
| Creating a new substance with new physical and chemical properties. |

#### Cincaín

The cincain is a five line formula poem like the tanka and five-step.

- The first line has two syllables,
- the second line has four syllables,
- the third line has six syllables,
- the fourth line has eight syllables
- the last line has two syllables.

*Example of Cincaín*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemically of two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or more elements to form pure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Haiku

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry with three unrhymed lines that have an easy flow governed by the number of syllables in each line:

- five in the first,
- seven in the second, and
- five in the third.

You may want to use a modified format with a description line in line one, an action line in line two, and a significant detail in line three.

*Example of Haiku*

| World-wide pollution |
| Destroys our great universe |
| Can we control it?     |

#### Concrete Poem

Concrete poems play with words and shapes. Some poems are shapes filled in with words; in other poems words may outline a shape or imitate a movement. The poems don't have to rhyme or have a certain number of words or syllables. Decide what you want to write about. (It should be a visible thing.) Jot down words or phrases that come to mind. Expand one idea into several phrases or sentences and then design the shape of the poem.

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**The colors of light**

A spectrum is a series of images formed when a beam of radiant energy is subjected to dispersion, so that the components of colors are arranged by the order of their wavelengths.

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### Diamonte

This is a seven-line poem shaped like a diamond. The diamond shape results from this line-by-line format:

- line one has one noun,
- line two has two adjectives,
- line three has three verbs ending in "-ing,"
- line four has four nouns,
- line five has three more verbs ending in "-ing,"
- line six has two adjectives,
- line seven has one noun.

**Example of Diamonte**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>poisonous, toxic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>releasing, producing, forming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat, light, gas, precipitate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burning, decomposing, reacting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hazardous, explosive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Syntu

Syntu is an example of poetry with five simple lines that describe something. First write a detailed description or observation. Then summarize and condense the observation using the following format:

- line one names the subject,
- line two contains an observation or fact about the subject,
- line three identifies a feeling or emotion about the subject,
- line four gives another fact about the subject,
- line five contains a synonym for the subject.

**Example of Syntu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law of Conservation of Energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May assume different forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy bookkeeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy remains constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Law of Thermodynamics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Villanelle

A Villanelle is a nineteen-line poem consisting of a very specific rhyming scheme: **aba aba aba aba aba abaa**. The first and the third lines in the first stanza are repeated in alternating order throughout the poem, and appear together in the last couplet (last two lines).

- Edwin Arlington Robinson's villanelle *The House on the Hill* was first published in *The Globe* in September 1894.

> They are all gone away,  
The House is shut and still,  
There is nothing more to say.

> Through broken walls and gray  
The winds blow bleak and shrill.  
They are all gone away.

> Nor is there one to-day  
To speak them good or ill:  
There is nothing more to say.

> Why is it then we stray  
Around the sunken sill?  
They are all gone away,

> And our poor fancy-play  
For them is wasted skill:  
There is nothing more to say.

> There is ruin and decay  
In the House on the Hill:  
They are all gone away,  
There is nothing more to say.
**Terza Rima**

A Terza Rima is a poem with an eleven syllable count in each line and a rhyming scheme of **aba, bcb, cdc, dd**.

*Acquainted With the Night* by Robert Frost

I have been one acquainted with the night. (a)
I have walked out in rain—and back in rain. (b)
I have outwalked the furthest city light. (a)

I have looked down the saddest city lane. (b)
I have passed by the watchman on his beat (c)
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain. (b)

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet (c)
When far away an interrupted cry (d)
Came over houses from another street, (c)

But not to call me back or say good-bye; (d)
And further still at an unearthly height (a)
One luminary clock against the sky (d)

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right. (a)
I have been one acquainted with the night. (a)

*Written by students at South Western High School, Hanover PA*