



Going Beyond Haiku: Fun & Challenging Poetry Forms for Students

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Things to know before diving in
- Let's Focus on Rhyme! (Terza Rima)
- And Repeat! (Villanelle)
- Scaffolding the forms (Adapting for younger grades)
- Q & A

We're Writing
Poetry!

HAIKU

Five syllables here

Seven more syllables there

Are you happy now??

Words to know

- Stanza – a small section of a poem; like a paragraph but for poetry. Poets often leave a blank line between two stanzas of a poem
- Couplet - 2-line stanza
- Tercet – 3-line stanza
- Quatrain – 4-line stanza
- Sestet – 6-line stanza
- Rhyme – repetition of ending sound(s) shared by words.
- Rhyme scheme – the pattern of end rhymes within a poem. Labelled with letters of the alphabet, beginning with A.

Let's Focus on Rhyme!

- Teach students how to use a rhyming dictionary (both hard copy and online)
 - <https://www.rhymer.com/>
 - <https://www.rhymedesk.com/>



Terza Rima

Name means “three rhyme”

Consists of tercets with an end couplet

Focus is on rhyme scheme:

- A
- B
- A

- B
- C
- B

- A
- A

Acquainted with the Night

BY ROBERT FROST

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

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

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

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

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

History & Famous Examples

- Invented by Dante in 1300s (*The Divine Comedy*)
- “Ode to the West Wind” by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- “Acquainted with the Night” by Robert Frost
- “The Yachts” by William Carlos Williams

Looking for Inspiration? Art!

- Borrowed art prints from school art teacher
- Displayed them and let students do a gallery walk to view all the prints
- Students selected a print to use for inspiration
- Brainstorm words they could use to describe the chosen art
- Choose a few of these words and list other rhyming words for them
- Introduce terza rima format



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Frida had a monkey on her back	A
And another sat upon her arm.	B
For a unibrow, she did not lack.	A
It seems the monkeys did no harm,	B
Just plucked an errant hair or two	C
Which did cause some alarm.	B
Frida often asked herself, who	C
Did those cute creatures	D
Truly belong to?	C
The monkeys thought she was a playground feature.	D
Diego Rivera did not seem to mind.	E
He felt that nature was a lovely teacher.	D
I'm sure that Frida took a lot of flack	A
But as an artist, she was not a quack.	A

Example

And Repeat! The Villanelle

- Made of tercets with an ending quatrain
- Rhyme scheme has only two rhymes (A & B)
- Two lines (both A rhyme) will be repeated throughout
- Typically written in iambic pentameter (but I did not focus on this for my students)

Villanelle Rhyme Scheme

A1

B

A2

A

B

A1

A

B

A2

A

B

A1

A

B

A2

A

B

A1

A2

History & Famous Examples

- Comes from Renaissance period peasant dances (villano is Italian for peasant)
- “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” by Dylan Thomas
- “The Home on the Hill” by Edward Arlington Robinson
- “One Art” by Elizabeth Bishop

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Inspired by Picture Books

- Picture books with lots of rhyme:
 - *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas
 - *Pig the Pug* by Aaron Blabey
 - *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson
 - *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox



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Students went through their chosen picture book and made lists of rhyming words from the text



Students added additional rhyming words to their lists from outside the text



Mark out any list with fewer than six words (the minimum needed for B rhyme; seven needed for A rhyme)



Write a rhyming couplet. This is the A1 & A2 line that will be repeated throughout



Put A1 & A2 in their spot throughout the poem, then complete the remaining lines.

The Process

Example

Sample Villanelle

Please children, do not trust that cat.	A1
Say no when he asks to come in.	B
He brings trouble, that Cat in the Hat.	A2
You both know you should not do that!	A
The fish's patience is wearing thin.	B
Please children, do not trust that cat.	A1
If he juggles it, it will go splat!	A
But he will gladly try again.	B
He brings trouble, that Cat in the Hat.	A2
If he comes, remove the welcome mat.	A
Hear the fish's yells over the din.	B
"Please children, do not trust that cat!"	A1
Twas better when you both simply sat.	A
All was nice and quiet—epic win!	B
He brings trouble, that Cat in the Hat.	A2
He can be more annoying than a gnat.	A
The fish would like to thump him with a fin.	B
Please children, do not trust that cat,	A1
He brings trouble, that Cat in the Hat.	A2

Scaffolding the Forms

- Shared or Interactive Writing
 - Teacher chooses topic or inspiration artifact
 - Students work in small groups to brainstorm lists of rhyming words related to topic
 - Create a class list of rhyming words
 - Students & Teacher work together to write the poem
 - Can start by writing the words that create the rhyme scheme and work from there

Scaffolding the forms

Low level of support: Hands outs with the rhyme scheme included

Villanelle Format

_____ A1
_____ B
_____ A2

_____ A
_____ B
_____ A1

_____ A
_____ B
_____ A2

_____ A
_____ B
_____ A1

_____ A
_____ B
_____ A1
_____ A2

Remember: All A1 lines will be the same. All A2 lines will also be the same line, but A1 and A2 are NOT the same.

Thank you!

- You can access this presentation at my Web Site:
- <https://sarahpennington2.wixsite.com/handouts>

