

# Poetry Recipes

The award-winning poems in this issue of *JS* are examples of free verse, a type of poetry that has no fixed pattern of rhyme, line length, or rhythm. Some poetry formats, however, have very specific patterns. Writing these kinds of poems is a little like following

the steps in a recipe. Someone has already determined what ingredients you need and in what order to add them. Four such poems are the *tanka*, *haiku*, *cinquain*, and *clerihew*. Follow the steps below to create your own poems on a separate sheet of paper.

## TANKA

[TAN-kuh]

- contains five usually unrhymed lines
- lines one and three have five syllables each
- lines two, four, and five have seven syllables each
- nature and love are common themes

### Example:

*Encased in crystal,  
All trees in my yard glisten.  
The ice storm has gone.  
Left behind are these treasures;  
Treasures stolen with the sun.*

## HAIKU

[HI-koo]

- contains three unrhymed lines
- lines one and three have five syllables each
- line two has seven syllables
- often reflects on nature

### Example:

*The elm umbrella  
Shades us with leafy curtains  
And will keep us safe.*

## CINQUAIN

[SIN-kayn]

- unrhymed five-line poem
- line one: a noun
- line two: two adjectives that describe the noun separated by "and"
- line three: three *-ing* words
- line four: a phrase
- line five: another word for the noun
- sometimes follows a 2-4-6-8-2 syllable scheme

### Example:

*Penguins  
Black and white  
Slipping, sliding, frolicking  
Through their snowy playground  
Companions*

## CLERHEW

[KLER-ih-hyu]

- contains four lines about a person or character
- line one names a person
- line two ends with a word or words that rhyme with the name of the person
- lines one and two rhyme
- lines three and four rhyme
- often comical, but doesn't have to be

### Example:

*A true world-changer, Rosa Parks  
Her legacy left many marks.  
To give her seat up, she refused.  
She would not stand and be abused.*