

## QUATRAIN



She was shut out, locked out  
Just sandwiched in between.  
Now she's right in, all in  
Just part of the whole team!

Maxine just did not fit! She was never old enough or young enough to be a part. To contemplate her situation, she retreated to the tree house to pout. Realizing that life without Maxine was just not the same, they promised a special party. Just like a doughnut hole, Maxine found that the middle is sometimes the most important part. *Maxine in the Middle*, by Holly Keller, Greenwillow, 1989.

A quatrain is a four-lined rhythmical poetry pattern. There are two very important rules to remember:

1. The second and fourth lines always rhyme; the first and third may or may not.
2. To keep a steady rhythm, the rhymed lines should have approximately the same number of syllables.

Use the four lines below to create a quatrain about other family stories like the Piggott family in Anthony Browne's *Piggybook*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

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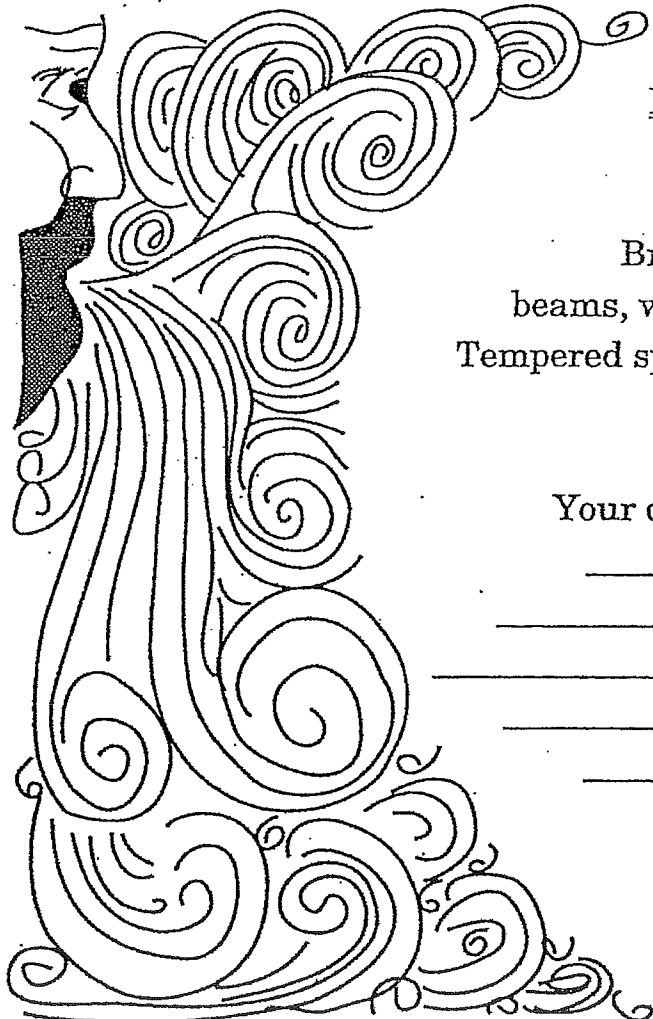
# A CINQUAIN

Who would be more persuasive, the raging North Wind or the radiant Sun in compelling the man to remove his cloak? Harder and harder the North Wind blew but tighter and tighter the man clung to his garment. Try though he might, he could not gain submission. Now, the Sun slowly cast his warmth upon the man. Soon the cloak was shed. Gentleness had crowned him master!

*The North Wind and the Sun*, by LaFontaine.

A cinquain has five lines.

- Line 1 One word for the title
- Line 2 Two words that describe the title
- Line 3 Three words that show action
- Line 4 Four words that show feeling
- Line 5 One word that is similar to the title in line one



Example:

Sun  
Bright-Light  
beams, warms, persuades  
Tempered spirit, contented now.  
Ruler

Your cinquain fable:

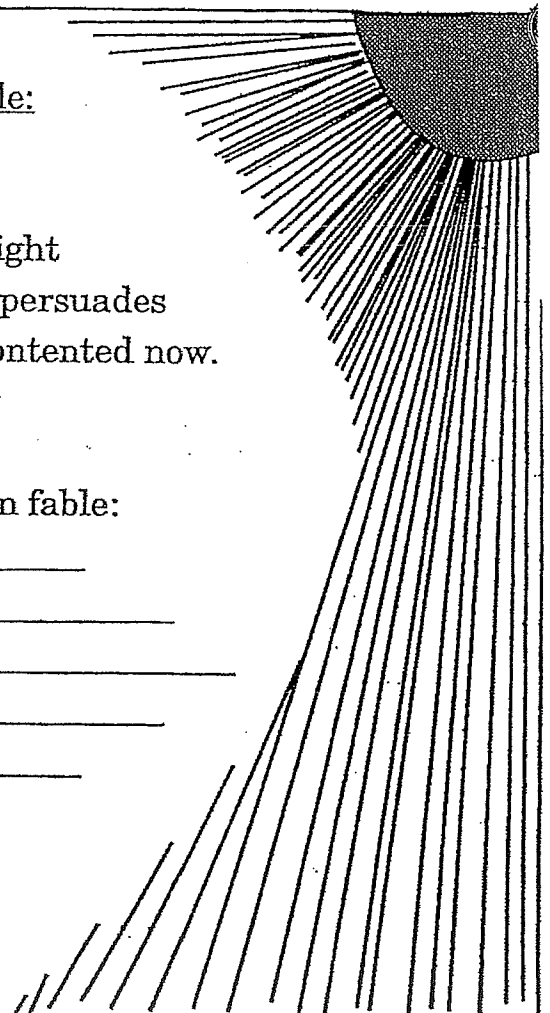
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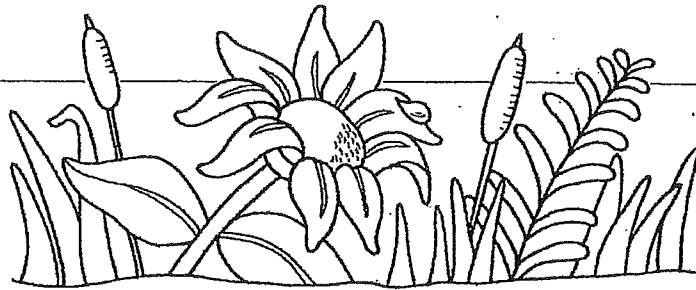
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## SHINY AS A SIMILE

A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared, using the words “like” or “as.” The purpose of a simile is to help the reader better appreciate an unfamiliar or abstract object by comparing it to one that is better known. For example:

The cold air felt like bee stings against my face.

She sparkled like a dew drop on a petal in the morning sun.

An entire poem can be written using similes. Here is a poem created by several students who shared their ideas:

### Silence

As silent as . . .

the wind as it is dying down,  
 a sunny day near a lake in the woods,  
 a snowflake falling down,  
 the wind blowing in the air,  
 a marsh early in the morning,  
 the time when I am in the house alone.

- Write a poem with similes of your own. You may use any of the ideas listed below. The poem you create does not have to rhyme.

As fast as	As noisy as	As exciting as
As peaceful as	As mean as	As dangerous as
As boring as	As hopeless as	As strong as

As \_\_\_\_\_ as . . .

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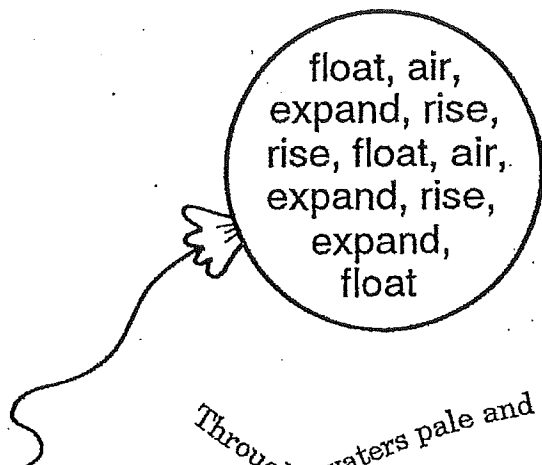
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- Many poems contain similes. Find one that is particularly pleasing to you.

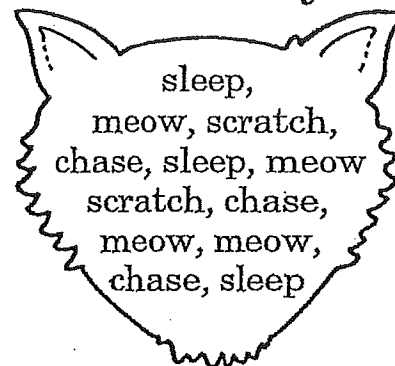
## SHAPE POEMS

A shape poem is one in which the words of the poem are printed in the shape of the object described. For example:

### Balloon



### A Cat's Day



### Fish

Through waters pale and shimmering, you glide softly, silently.  
Through waters churning madly, you slice through currents crashingly.

- Write a shape poem of your own. You may use any of the following suggestions or choose another. Take notes in the space below before you write the poem.

bell	earthworm	kite
clock	fish	smile
cloud	football	umbrella
	flower	

shape \_\_\_\_\_

words to describe shape \_\_\_\_\_

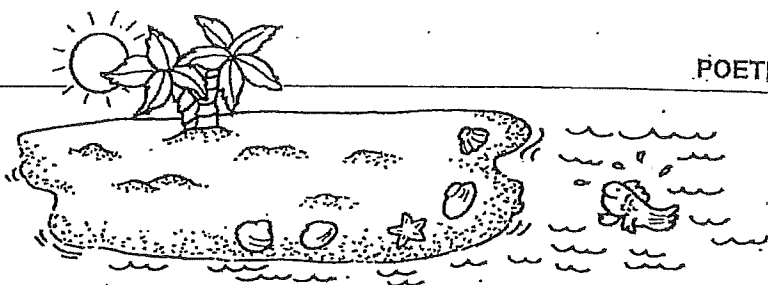
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## USING THE SENSES

A poet may evoke all five senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch—to help the reader fully appreciate an object. Here is an example of such a poem written collaboratively by young people in a poetry workshop:

### Seashore

*sight*            Blue and jade green and golden yellow in the sun,  
                       Waves at the seashore

*sound*            Slap and tap and slip onto sand.

*taste*             Salty spray on my tongue,

*touch*            Tingling and stinging my face,

*smell*             As fishy seashore smells

                      Recall all my summers forever.

- Write a poem of your own evoking all five senses. You may use any of the following topics or choose another. Think about words or phrases that will evoke each of the senses for the topic you choose. Take notes in the space below before you write the poem.

adventure park	city street
airplane flight	park
attic	rainy day
basketball court	rooftop
carnival	woods

Title \_\_\_\_\_

sight \_\_\_\_\_

sound \_\_\_\_\_

taste \_\_\_\_\_

touch \_\_\_\_\_

smell \_\_\_\_\_

- Find poems that evoke three or more of the senses.

# LIMERICK

A limerick is a very funny but short poem. There is a rhyme and rhythm pattern that makes it flow smoothly. The following example tells about a very special princess and her problem from the story, *The Princess and the Pea*.

There once was a princess you see,  
Who slept all night long on a pea!  
When asked how she slept,  
The young woman then wept,  
"The ordeal got the best part of me!"

Here are the rules:

Lines 1, 2, and 5: Rhyme and have eight to ten syllables.  
Lines 3 and 4: Rhyme and have five to seven syllables

Try a limerick based on a familiar story. Be careful and watch the rhyme scheme and the number of syllables.

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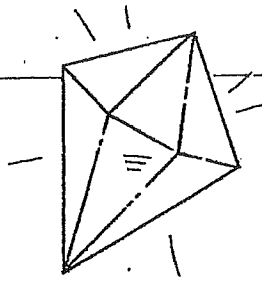
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To introduce the limerick pattern read *The Book of Pigericks* by Arnold Lobel (Harper Collins, 1983).



## BRIGHT AS A DIAMANTE

A "Diamante" is a poem that is written in the shape of a diamond. This is the structure of a diamante:

- Line 1 – one word: name of the subject
- Line 2 – two words: adjectives describing the subject
- Line 3 – three words: "ing" words that tell more about the subject
- Line 4 – four word sentence
- Line 5 – three "ing" words: words moving away from the first idea
- Line 6 – two words: adjectives describing the opposite idea that follows
- Line 7 – one word: name of the opposite of the subject

Here is an example of a diamante:

Morning  
 Bright, crisp  
 Glistening, gleaming, glaring  
 Sun stings my eyes  
 Rushing, raging, tiring  
 Soothing, restful  
 Evening

- Write your own diamante. You may choose any of the following topics or choose a topic of your own. Take notes in the space below before you write the poem.

Winter/Summer      Sun/Moon  
 Enemies/Friends      Triumph/Defeat  
 Love/Hate

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

descriptive words \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_