

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

CINQUAIN

★ Cinquain (sin-cane) is an unrhymed form of poetry consisting of five prescribed lines. Adelaide Crapsey who originated the cinquain form used a syllable formula for writing cinquains. The original form had five lines consisting of syllables arranged in a two, four, six, eight, two-syllable pattern. Adelaide Crapsey's poems were delicate and full of sadness. However, cinquain can be adapted to fit any mood. Here are two examples.

Mantis (2-syllable word or words announcing topic)
 Stick predator (4 syllables describing topic)
 Stalking, preening, searching (6 syllables expressing action)
 Slenderly fashioned by nature (8 syllables expressing feeling)
 Killer (2 syllable ending synonym for topic)

G. Lipson

Cinquains, generally, do not bear titles. However, you will notice that the first line serves that function by announcing the topic.

	Syllables
Playground	2
A place to play	4
Boys, girls, teachers, freedom	6
Free my spirit--send me flying	8
Hooray!	2

G. Lipson

A variation of the cinquain focuses on topics not normally used for cinquain. These topics can cut across all curriculum areas. Your students may be interested in writing cinquains which focus on:

- famous modern women
- a great moment in history or modern times
- a scientific phenomenon
- a fascinating title of a book or movie
- a social issue
- a mathematical concept

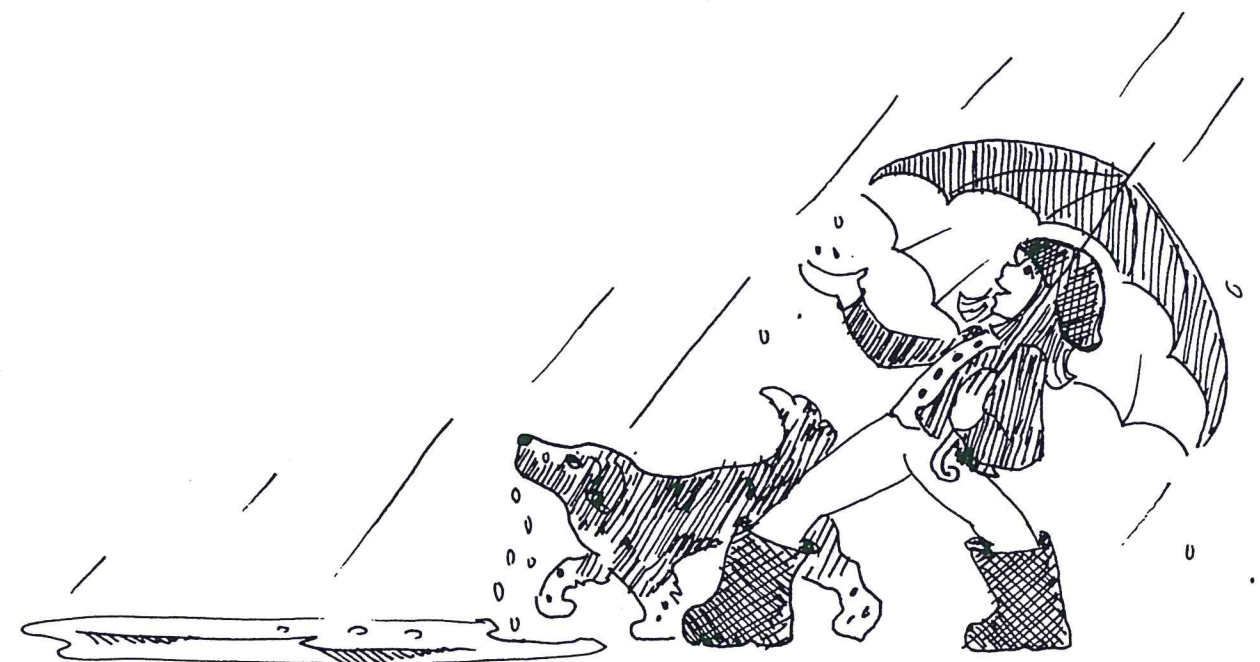
We need to make account here of a version of cinquain which is quite popular in the schools but which does not observe the syllabic pattern devised by Adelaide Crapsey. Many teachers find this pattern easier for less sophisticated poetry writers. It consists of the following:

- _____ one-word topic (noun)
- _____ two describing words (adjectives)
- _____ three action words (verbs)
- _____ a four-word phrase
- _____ a synonym or equivalent for the topic (noun)

An example of this cinquain pattern would be:

Rain
 Heavy, awesome
 Drenching, soaking, penetrating
 Renewing the earth's firmament
 Soil-soaker

J. Romatowski





CINQUAIN

Cinquain is a form of free verse consisting of five lines arranged in a very special way. If you follow the directions below, you will have written a cinquain of your own.

1. Name a topic _____

2. Think of describing words for your topic.

3. Think of "ing" action words that fit your topic.

4. Now think of some four-word phrases which capture some feeling about your topic.

5. How many synonyms can you think of for your topic? Use hyphenated words or a strong emotional word if you prefer.

6. Pick out your best words and put your cinquain together, below. Cut it out and mount it on construction paper. Do your best writing. Remember the pattern -- the first line is 2 syllables, second line 4 syllables, third line 6 syllables, fourth line 8 syllables, fifth line 2 syllables.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

By: _____