

Bobby Wiggins
Genre Lesson Plan – Poetry Forms

Villanelle - Nineteen lines of any length in five three-line stanzas and a final quatrain, with two rhymes and two refrains. {Remember, two refrains means that two lines are repeated throughout the poem.} Here is the rhyme scheme, with the refrain lines in capitals and designated as 1 & 2:

First Stanza: A1 b A2
Second Stanza: a b A1
Third Stanza: a b A2
Fourth Stanza: a b A1
Fifth Stanza: a b A2
Final Quatrain: a b A1 A2

Pantoum – An indefinite number of *a b a b* quatrain stanzas, with this restriction: lines 2 and 4 of each stanza, in their entirety, become lines 1 and 3 of the following stanza, and so on. The carry over lines are called repetons. The sequence is ended in a quatrain whose repetons are lines 1 and 3 of the first stanza in reversed order.

First Quatrain: 1 2 3 4
Second Quatrain: 2 5 4 6
Third Quatrain: 5 7 6 8
Fourth Quatrain: 7 9 8 10
Fifth Quatrain: 9 3 10 1

Ghazal - A traditional Ghazal consists of five to fifteen couplets, typically seven. A refrain (a repeated word or phrase) appears at the end of both lines of the first couplet and at the end of the second line in each succeeding couplet. In addition, one or more words before the refrain are rhymes or partial rhymes. The lines should be of approximately the same length and meter. The poet may use the final couplet as a signature couplet, using his or her name in first, second or third person, and giving a more direct declaration of thought or feeling to the reader.

Sestina – Thirty-nine lines of any length, divided into six sestets and one triplet. The sestina is not rhymed, but instead the six end words of the lines in stanza 1 are repeated as end words in a specific order throughout the poem to give a sense of unity. In the final three-line stanza three of these end words appear at the ends of the lines and the others appear within the lines. Here the letter represent repeated words.

1. ABCDEF
2. FAEBDC
3. CFDABE
4. ECBFAD
5. DEACFB
6. BDFECA
7. Envoi only three lines long. The words B, D, and F occur within the last three lines, which end with the words E,C, and A.