Creative Writing

Quick Write Poems

**Assignment: Choose four (4)** of the following types of poetry and compose your own masterpiece following the parameters of each type. Yes, you may attempt to write one of each one but it is not required.

**Mad Lib**: phrasal template word game where one player prompts others for a list of words to substitute for blanks in a story, before reading the – often comical or nonsensical – story aloud.

*Whose (noun) these are I think I (verb).*

*His (noun) is in the (noun), though;*

*He will not see me (verb-)ing here*

*To watch his (noun #1) fill up with (noun).*

*My (adjective) (noun) must think it (adjective)*

*To stop without a (noun) near*

*Between the (noun#1) and (adjective) (noun)*

*The (adjective) (noun) of the year.*

*He (verb) his (adjective) (plural noun) a shake*

*To (verb) if there is some (noun).*

*The only other sound's the (onomatopoeia)*

*Of (adjective) (noun) and (adjective) (noun).*

*The (noun #1) are (adjective), (adjective) and (adjective),*

*But I have (plural noun) to (verb),*

*And miles to go before I (verb),*

*And miles to go before I (same verb).*

**Clerihew:** Four – line form consisting of two couplets (a-a, b-b) that offer a humorous view of a well-known person. The name must be a part of one of the end rhymes.

*“John Wayne”*

*When rugged John Wayne*

*Leads the wagon train,*

*The badmen scatter*

*To his bullets’ patter.*

*“Albert Einstein”*

*Albert Einstein*

*Genius at nine*

*Did what none dared:*

*Invented E=mc 2*

**Conceit poem:** A conceit is a fanciful poetic image, especially an elaborate or exaggerated comparison. This is really an experience in working with metaphor, but one that extends through the poem. You will be writing about one thing entirely in terms of another, eg. the moon as a soccer ball - kicked around the sky, 'off-side!' Answer these questions about your chosen object comparison:

1. What is it? What does it look like?
2. Where is it?
3. What is it doing?
4. Expand this to use senses, eg. touch, feeling
5. A final action to round off the conceit

Notice how this poem describes a mosquito in terms of a burglar.

*“The Flying Burglar”*

*He's out at dead of night, dodging
between this shadow and that.
His nerves quiver.
He looks for a chink of light,
the smallest crack.
He's found it. He's in
How careless
to leave the goodies
heaped on the bed.
He zones in, strikes,
and stashes away
his first sackful
of warm blood.*

**Dirge:** A dirge is a funeral poem. Remember that funerals were often a procession, people slowly trudging with the dearly departed to see them buried or put to sea, so it would be completely appropriate for a dirge to be song-like. It could also be an elegy, an ode to the deceased.

*“Edge” by Sylvia Plath*

*The woman is perfected.
Her dead
Body wears the smile of accomplishment,
The illusion of a Greek necessity
Flows in the scrolls of her toga,
Her bare
Feet seem to be saying:
We have come so far, it is over.
Each dead child coiled, a white serpent,
One at each little
Pitcher of milk, now empty.
She has folded
Them back into her body as petals
Of a rose close when the garden
Stiffens and odors bleed
From the sweet, deep throats of the night flower.
The moon has nothing to be sad about,
Staring from her hood of bone.
She is used to this sort of thing.
Her blacks crackle and drag.*

**Formal Cinquain:** Five lines, each line adding two syllables and further meaning to the subject. Syllable pattern is 2-4-6-8-2.

Flowers

Are bursts of warmth,

Bringing sunshine to me,

Brightening my day. I love

Flowers.

Hope

Gently,

Gasping for breath,

Caring for human life,

Hope renders the world resounding

Pleasures.