

# POETIC FORMS CHEAT SHEET - compiled by Jimmy Lo

<b>Villanelle</b>	<b>Petrarchan Sonnet</b>	<b>Shakespearean Sonnet</b>	<b>Sestina</b>	<b>Pantoum</b>	
A b B	abba abba cde cde	abab cdcd efef gg	123456 (in iambic	ABCD	
a b A	(or)		615243 pentameter)	BEDF	
a b B	abba abba cd cd cd	<b>Spenserian Sonnet</b>	364125	EGFH	
a b A		abab bcbc cdcd ee	532614	GAHC	
a b B			451362		
a b A B	(sonnets are usu. in iambic pentameter)		246531		
<b>Ghazal ("guzzle")</b>			531 or 135 (envoi)	<b>Haiku</b>	
autonomous couplets / all lines same num syllables / min. 5 couplets			envoi must	3 lines	
first two lines rhyme and establish refrain			include 246 also	syllables = 5 7 5	
subsequent couplets: 2nd line re-establishes rhyme and refrain of 1st couplet					
Final couplet: refers to the author in the first or third person frequently including the poet's name or a derivation of its meaning					
<b>Blues</b>	<b>Paradelle (parodic form--Billy Collins)</b>				
rhyming triplets	Six line stanzas: each AABBCd				
AAa	(cd must include all & only words from A&B)				
BBb, etc.	final stanza doesn't have to follow refrain form but must include all & only words in prev. stanzas				
<b>Terza Rima</b>	<b>Tritina</b>	<b>Sonnetina</b>	<b>Ballade</b>	<b>Ballad</b>	
aba	123 (in iambic	1234	ababbcbC	abab	
bcb	312 pentameter)	4123	ababbcbC	bcbc, etc.	
cdc, etc.	231	3412	ababbcbC	lines alternate betw.	
(iambic penta.)	123 (envoi)	1234 (envoi)	bcbC	tetrameter (4)	
			(consistent meter)	& trimeter (3)	
<b>Pollock (John Yau)</b>	<b>Limerick</b>		<b>Rondeau</b>		
14 lines, first line is a quotation	aabba (meter:33223)		aabba (first line begins with C)		
remaining lines are comprised solely	pseudo-biog.		aabC		
of words and punctuation found in the first line	light verse		aabbaC		
			C = 4 syllables	<b>Triolet</b>	
			other lines= 8 syllables	8-line poem	
				ABaAabAB	
				in iambic tetrameter	
<b>Epigram</b>	<b>Tanka</b>		<b>The Bop (Afaa Michael Weaver)</b>		
"What is an Epigram? A dwarfish whole,	5 lines		sestet + refrain (states problem) -free verse stanzas		
Its body brevity, and wit its soul." (Coleridge)	syllables = 5 7 5 7 7		octave + refrain (expands problem)		
			sestet + refrain (resolves or acknowledges failure to)		
<b>Blank Verse</b>	<b>Free Verse</b>	<b>Prose Poem</b>	<b>Sapphic Stanza (loosely)</b>	<b>Rondel</b>	
unrhymed	no consistent meter or rhyme	no consistent meter	/ u / u / u u / u / u	ABba (8 syllable	
iambic	line breaks add rhythm	or rhyme	/ u / u / u u / u / u	abAB lines)	
pentameter	(uses musicality of natural speech)	no line breaks	/ u / u / u u / u / u	abbaA	
			/ u u / u		
<b>Found Poem</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Elegy</b>	<b>Exquisite Corpse</b>	<b>Ode</b>	<b>Clerihew</b>
takes words/lines	written	on a loss	a collaboration;	glorifying sthing, usu.	aabb
from other often	as a letter	or death	poets alternate lines	in 3 stanzas: strophe	pseudo-biog.
non-poetic sources				antistrophe, & epode	light verse
<b>Cento</b>	<b>Acrostic</b>	<b>Concrete</b>	<b>Dramatic Monologue</b>	<b>Pastoral</b>	
made up of lines	first letter of each	shape of poem	imagined speaker,	idealizes rural life	
from other poems/poets	line spells out a word	has significance	silent listener	and landscapes	
<b>Meter</b>	<b>Line Lengths (in feet)</b>		<b>Stanza Lengths</b>		
iamb (u /)	1=monometer	6=hexameter	2=couplet	7=septet	<b>Key</b> lowercase (abab) = rhyming endwords caps (ABAB) = repeating lines numbers (1212) = repeating endwords u = unstressed syllable / = stressed syllable
trochee (/ u)	2=dimeter	7=heptameter	3=tercet	8=octave	
anapest (u u /)	3=trimeter	8=octameter	4=quatrain		
dactyl (/ u u)	4=tetrameter		5=cinquain		
spondee (/ /)	5=pentameter		6=sestet		