**POETIC PATTERNS AND TRADITIONS**

**THREE LINE STANZAS** **(TERCETS)** - open content; meter may vary though usually matching; end-line rhyme scheme; no maximum number of stanzas (EX. p.303)

*TRIPLET AAA / BBB / CCC/ etc.*

*TERZA RIMA ABA / BCB / CDC/ etc.*

**SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET -** Renaissance form entailing 3 quatrains (12 lines) plus a final couplet; rhyme scheme follows a b,a,b,c,d,c,d e,f,e,g with g,g in final couplet. (Ex. p.309)

**CINQUAIN:** American in nature, this 5-line poems defines its structure by line.

Line 1 - 2 syllables Just now

Line 2 - 4 syllables Out of the strange

Line 3 - 6 syllables Still dusk . . . as strange, as still . . .

Line 4 - 8 syllables A white moth flew. Why am I grown

Line 5 - 2 syllables So cold?

Adelaide Crapsey

**TANKA:** This ancient Japanese form is a 31-syllable poem and similar to the cinquain in its five lines with defined syllabication per line.

Line 1 - 5 syllables Lying here alone,

Line 2 - 7 syllables So lost in longings for you

Line 3 - 5 syllables I forget to comb

Line 4 - 7 syllables My tangles tresses - oh for

Line 5 - 7 syllables Your hand to caress them smooth!

Lady Izumi Shikibu

**HAIKU** - Japanese 17-syllable, 3-line poem (5-7-5) expressing coupling insights or images; “juxtaposes seemingly unrelated observations in order to glimpse the hidden connections between things; must include or allude to a season; rhyming is optional.

*Making jazz swing in (5) Lightning in the clouds! (5)*

*Seventeen syllables AIN’T (7) In the deeper dark is heard (7) No square poet’s job. (5) A night-heron’s cry.* (5)

Etheridge Knight Basho

**LIMERICK:** usually humorous involving a character and specific place; AABBA rhyme scheme; stressed in pattern 3-3-2-2-3 for the five lines.

*There was a young lad from KilKenny (3) - A*

*Who much to his woe had no penny (3) - A*

*So when the time came (2) - B*

*To court a fine dame (2) - B*

*The choices he found weren’t any. (3) - A*

**CONCRETE:** using spatial design, the meaning of the poem comes from not only the words but their spatial relationship on the page.