



Deibhidhe Baise Fri Toin (Ireland)

There are many variations of the deibhidhe. (Or, deibide—pronounced *jay-vee*.) This version requires that a 4-line stanza/poem have 3 syllables in the first line, 7 in the third and fourth lines and 1 in the final line. (3/7/7/1) The rhyme pattern is AABB. However, the last word in the first two lines must have two syllables. And the last word in the last two lines must be a one syllable word.

Since we have a maximum of 9 lines you could do two stanzas, each with the same format. But use different rhymes. CCDD for your second stanza. Remember to have 2 syllable words ending the first two lines, and one syllable words ending the last two lines.

And if you really want to dive further into this form there is also often a requirement that the first two end rhymes be rhymed such that the emphasized syllable of the two-syllable word at the end of line one is rhymed with a softer (unemphasized) second syllable of the two-syllable word at the end of line two. The remaining two rhymes, the BB rhymes, stay as is (hard rhymes). If that's confusing, see the difference in my two examples below.

EXAMPLES:

SILENCE (Version 1 with 2 exact AA and BB rhymes.)

We're walking—
past black water, not talking.
Tannin stains the troubled creek.
Speak!

We're speaking—
each word a soft one seeking.
My love, there's nothing to fear
here.

SILENCE (Version 2 which has stressed syllables at the ends of the first lines in the two stanzas such as: “as-SUME” and “o-PEN.” They rhyme with a non-emphasized syllable at the ends of the second lines: “CLASS-room” and “TOK-en.” Lines 3 and 4 in each stanza are hard single-syllable exact rhymes.)*

Don’t assume.
Talk love in nature’s classroom.
Silence can trouble a creek—
Speak!

Be open
to each word as love’s token.
They’ll float, with nothing to fear
here.

*NOTE: this can be a bit challenging in English. (It took me several days!) I did discover that most English two-syllable nouns, adjectives, and adverbs have their emphasis on the first syllable—good for ending that second line. But, when you’re looking for a two-syllable English word with the emphasis on the last syllable for the ending of that first line, look for verbs.