



Sijo (Korea)

Sijo is an ancient verse form that has three lines of 14-16 syllables. Each line contains a pause (caesura) near the middle. The first line introduces an idea or story, the second line develops the subject, and the third line provides final thoughts often with a twist or countertheme. Modern sijo are sometimes printed in six lines. That is, each of the longer lines can be cut where the break is. Some Sijo require a certain number of syllables in each half of each line. This is a simplified version with 7 syllables in the first half of each line and 8 in the second half.

AN EXAMPLE by Shutta

HAPPY

From the black dirt green pips thrust—spring's first offering of flowers.
And right behind? Sneaky weeds. They, too, are happy to be here
chiding my orderly world. Oh, the beauty of all these imps!

RESOURCES:

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-sijo-poetry>

<https://www.ethicalela.com/sijo-korean-poem-with-a-twist>