



FRANCE: the triolet

(Try this one with a younger writer.)

While there are no restrictions on this 8-line poem as to line length and subject, it has a very specific arrangement of rhymes and repetition of lines. Once the first line is written so is the 4th and 7th. Here's the pattern:

A (first line)

B (second line)

a (rhymes with first line)

A (repeat first line)

a (rhymes with first line)

b (rhymes with second line)

A (repeat first line)

B (repeat second line)

EXAMPLE:

ONE WINTER'S DAY

How quietly we stood
With snowflakes in our hair
And watched the fox step through the wood
How quietly we stood
And saw it come so close we could
See its breath stirring the air
How quietly we stood
With snowflakes in our hair

Shutta