



THE TANAGA (Philippines)

(A good one to do with young writers.)

The tanaga is a 4-line poem with 7 syllables in each line. The first part of it presents a question, puzzle or metaphor that is then cleared up toward the end. Traditionally, it has the same end rhyme, though contemporary writers often vary it. Usually untitled, it often deals with life lessons or has emotional content. Mine has humor.

EXAMPLE:

The Wigglepede

by Shutta Crum

Wigglepedes—they do exist!

Catching one, experts insist,

takes a tickle to the wrist.

Wait, you wiggle bug—I missed!

Resource:

<https://www.languageisavirus.com/poetry-guide/tanaga.php>