



SPAIN: The zéjel

This form has many variations. (An Arabic variation of the form is called the Zajal.) The first stanza is called a mudanza and is three lines long, all with the same end rhyme. The following stanzas are each four lines long, written with 8 syllables in each line. The first three lines of any following stanzas all end-rhyme with each other. Then the last line returns to the rhyme of the mudanza (the first stanza). So, the rhyming pattern is: AAA BBBA. And if you write more stanzas: CCCA DDDA, etc.

EXAMPLE:

CHIPMUNK MORNING by Shutta

The handsome fellow at my door
wants food, just like the day before.
A nub of cheese is all he'll score.

Sir Prance-a-lot likes maple seeds,
but nature's gifts don't fill his needs.
He likes my food; and so he pleads
at my back door: *Want more! Want more!*