Station 1: Diamante Poems

Diamante poems are shaped like a diamond. Diamante is easy to write. You don’t have to worry about rhyme or rhythm, but you do need to know the parts of speech.

Line 1: one noun

Line 2: two adjectives

Line 3: three –ing verbs or actions

Line 4: four related nouns

Line 5: three –ing verbs or actions

Line 6: two adjectives

Line 7: one noun

Now turn the formula into a poem:

* Choose a subject (one noun) for line 1.
* Choose an opposite of the first noun for line 7.
* Pick two adjectives that describe the noun in line 1 for Line 3.
* Pick three verbs to describe noun in line 1.
* Pick four nouns: the first two describe the noun in line 1, the last two describe the noun in line 7.
* Pick three verbs to describe the noun in line 7.
* Pick two adjectives to describe the noun in line 7.
* List the noun that is opposite of line 1.

Example:

Monday

Lone, Bleak

Frustrating, demeaning, tiring

Problems, mistakes—accomplishments, corrections

Invigorating, relaxing, encouraging

Long, Happy

Friday

Station 2: Cinquain

Line 1: Write a noun (your subject). It should be one word.

Line 2: Write two adjectives (words that describe your noun). Separate the two adjectives by a comma.

Line 3: Write three verbs that tell what the noun in the first line does. Separate verbs by commas.

Line 4: Write a thought about your noun. A short phrase will do.

Line 5: Repeat the word you wrote on the first line or a synonym.

Examples:

Doors

Smooth, hard

Close, stick, open

A nuisance

Doors

Apples

Crisp, juicy

Grow, ripen, Fall

Delicious to eat

Apples

Bicycles

Fun, tiring

Race, ride, fall

Go where you want

Wheels

Station 3: Limerick

A limerick is a very funny but short poem. There is a rhyme and rhythm pattern that makes it flow smoothly. Try a limerick based on a familiar story.

Lines 1, 2, and 5: Rhyme and have eight to ten syllables

Lines 3 and 4: Rhyme and have five to seven syllables

Example:

There once was a princess you see,

Who slept all night long on a pea!

When asked how she slept,

The young woman wept,

“The ordeal got the best of me!”

Station 4: Haiku

Follow these form rules exactly: Write three lines totaling 17 syllables. You will have five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line. When the Japanese write haiku, they use a word or phrase that suggests a season. This can be done by naming a season (summer, winter, fall, or spring) or by using words suggesting a season. Try to suggest a season or some aspect of nature in your haiku.

Line 1: Five syllables

Line 2: Seven syllables

Line 3: Five syllables

Examples:

Neither earth nor sky

Nothing left, only the snow

Falling fast oh fast

Fall moon arises

Leaving nighttime laughter in

The river ripples.

See: surviving sons

Visit the ancestral grave. . .

Bearded, with bent canes.

My two plum trees are

So gracious. . .see, they flower

One now, one later.

Station 5: “I Remember” Poetry

Write a poem in which every line begins with “I remember. . .”

Example:

I remember having a dream about a pink elephant on a cloud saying “Welcome to dreamland.”

I remember having a dream about my mother roasting our dog.

I remember over-turning the shopping cart.

I remember calling a peach a fuzzy apple.

I remember the dresses falling on me.

I remember making a hole in the ceiling with a super ball.

I remember knocking a hole in the bedroom wall with my feet.

I remember writing all over the new bedroom wall with crayons.

I remember watching my cousin throw mice on my mother.

Station 6: Bio-poem

A bio-poem is a short biography about the life of someone.

Line 1: First name only:

Line 2: Four traits,

Line 3: Related to,

Line 4: Cares deeply about,

Line 5: Who feels,

Line 6: Who needs,

Line 7: Who gives,

Line 8: Who fears,

Line 9: Who would like to see,

Line 10: Resident of.

Example:

Gretel:

Small, lost, tired, hungry

Sister of Hansel,

Who feels afraid,

Who needs a place to sleep,

Who gives companionship,

Who fears the witch,

Who would like to see her father again,

Resident of the forest.

Station 7: Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of words. Compose a poem in which every word in the first line begins with a, every word in the second line begins with b, the third c, the fourth d, and so on. See how far you can go in the alphabet.

Example:

An Australian army awfully arrayed

Boldly by battery besieged Belgrade.

Cossack commanders cannonading come,

Dealing destruction’s devastating doom.

Station 8: Rhyme

Rhyme is a great way to create musicality in your poetry. You are going to practice rhyme by re-writing Shel Silverstein’s famous poem “Sick.” You will be writing the poem in couplets (two lines that rhyme). You will start the poem with these two lines:

“I cannot go to school today.”

Said little Peggy Ann McKay

Then you will add couplets describing reasons why Peggy Ann can’t go to school. Here is an example:

“I cannot go to school today.”

Said little Peggy Ann McKay.

I think that I could have the mumps,

And maybe even have the bumps.

I think that I have all the pox,

I forgot the combos to all my locks.

I lost my shirt and my pants,

I just got out of a deep trance.

I lost my watch. I can’t tell time.

I really just don’t think I’m fine.

Look at the original poem for length. You will end your poem with the last three lines:

“What’s that? What’s that you say?

You say today is. . .Saturday?

G’bye, I’m going out to play.

“Sick” by Shel Silverstein

“I cannot go to school today”  
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.  
“I have the measles and the mumps,  
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.  
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry.  
I’m going blind in my right eye.  
My tonsils are as big as rocks,  
I’ve counted sixteen chicken pox.  
And there’s one more – that’s seventeen,  
And don’t you think my face looks green?  
My leg is cut, my eyes are blue,  
It might be the instamatic flu.  
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,  
I’m sure that my left leg is broke.  
My hip hurts when I move my chin,  
My belly button’s caving in.  
My back is wrenched, my ankle’s sprained,  
My ‘pendix pains each time it rains.  
My toes are cold, my toes are numb,  
I have a sliver in my thumb.  
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,  
I hardly whisper when I speak.  
My tongue is filling up my mouth,  
I think my hair is falling out.  
My elbow’s bent, my spine ain’t straight,  
My temperature is one-o-eight.  
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,  
There’s a hole inside my ear.  
I have a hangnail, and my heart is …  
What? What’s that? What’s that you say?  
You say today is ………….. Saturday?  
G’bye, I’m going out to play!”

Station 9: Concrete Poetry

Concrete poems take the shape of the subject of the poem. For example, a poem about trees, will actually look like a tree. Pick any subject you like, and then write a poem creating the shape of the subject as you write.

Example:

