



# Creating Cinquains...



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# Welcome to the world of cinquains!

A cinquain [sɪŋ'keɪn] is a short poem consisting of five, usually unrhymed lines, it has 2 syllables in the first line, 4 in the second, 6 in the third, 8 in the fourth line, and just 2 in the last line.

"November Night"  
by Adelaide Crapsey

Listen...

With faint dry sound,  
Like steps of passing ghosts,  
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees  
And fall.



The cinquain was invented by American poet Adelaide Crapsey about 100 years ago. It is like the Japanese haiku and tanka. The word "cinquain" comes from the Latin root for "five".



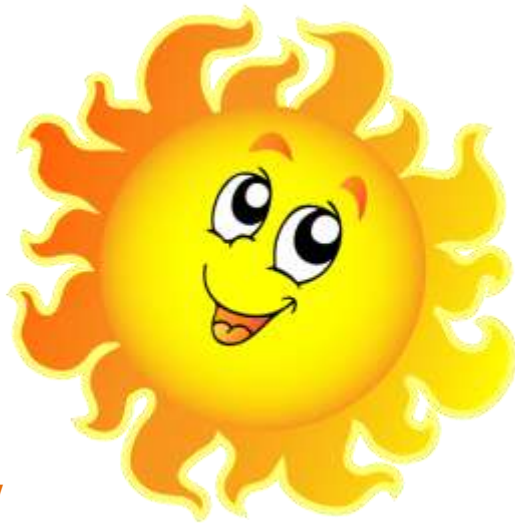
Snowman,  
Cold, but funny,  
Standing, smiling, seeing.  
I would walk and play with him,  
Carrot-nose.



A girl,  
Friendly, happy,  
Walks, talks, works.  
She has so many duties,  
Me.



The sun,  
Hot and bright,  
Warms, shines, sparks.  
One can lie on the beach,  
Sunny.



Nowadays one of the most popular variations of cinquains is a didactic cinquain. It is widely taught at schools of the UK and the USA.

Its structure:

Line 1 – one word (a noun);

Line 2 – two words (adjectives);

Line 3 – three words (action verbs);

Line 4 – four words (feelings);

Line 5 – one word (a synonym of line 1).

For example:

Baimak  
Wonderful, young  
Grows, learns to live, helps me  
It is my little native town  
My home





# EVERY PUPIL CAN CREATE CINQUAINS!

Just follow these few simple steps:

1. Decide what you would like to write about.
2. Find words and phrases that describe your idea.
3. Write your words and phrases in an order that tells your story and count the syllables.
4. Rhyme your cinquain if you want.
5. Have fun!

"The Longest Journey"  
by William Souter

Westward  
As pioneers  
Across life's continent,  
We journey ever on from the sea  
To sea.



Here are  
some of my cinquains

Ball,  
Beautiful, colourful,  
Jumping, rolling, flying.  
It is my best toy,  
Round.



Dog,  
Funny, clever,  
Playing, running, protecting.  
He misses without me,  
Friend.