

Cinquain Features

There are always five lines.

Each line of the poem develops the subject of the first word.

Lines are always written centred on the page

Each line follows a general pattern:

subject

description

action

feeling

conclusion

Summer
Hot and sunny
lazing, slurping ice-creams
Passport, suitcase, boring airport
No school!

The lines form the shape (approximately) of a diamond, so these poems are sometimes called diamond or diamante poems.

Cinquain Rules

Did you know...?

Cinquain poems were invented by the American poet Adelaide Crapsey in about 1911.

Did you know...?

They are also called 'diamante' or diamond poems because of their shape.

Snowfall ●———— 2 syllables
white and freezing ●———— 4 syllables
softly, gently, falling ●———— 6 syllables
drifting, piling up at the fence ●———— 8 syllables
Blizzard! ●———— 2 syllables

All cinquains have 5 lines

- 1) 1 word to introduce the subject
- 2) 2 or 3 adjectives
- 3) 2 or 3 actions
- 4) a phrase or short sentence about it
- 5) 1 or 2 words to sum it up

Did you know...?

Cinquain is pronounced 'san-cane', not 'sin-kwane'.
It comes from the French word 'cinq', for five.