



Poetry

A **Cinquain** has five lines of two, four, six, eight, and two syllables. The first line may also be the title.



Literary Elements

Assonance is created by repeating similar vowel sounds in two or more words.

A **Metaphor** is a figure of speech in which two very different objects or ideas are said to be alike.

Cinquains

by Polly Peterson

FAT FROG

Fat frog

Murky as mud

Hides all but his high eyes.

Flash! Flick! Flies cannot flee from that

Fast tongue.

You can hear assonance in the words “high eyes,” which both have the long *i* sound.

White Swans

White swans,
Awkward on land,
Glide through water with ease.
Wide webbed feet grant them the grace of
Dancers.

The poet creates a metaphor by comparing swans to dancers.

GRASS SNAKE

Grass snake
 Graceful and quick
 Slithers, slips, slides away —
 Disappears quietly as a
 Daydream.



Connect and Compare



1. Besides “high eyes,” find another example of assonance in one of these cinquains. **Assonance**
2. Which cinquain do you think best captures the animal it describes? Explain. **Analyze**
3. How are the animals in these poems well adapted to their environments? Compare them with animals from *A Walk in the Desert*. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find out more about cinquains at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Precise Words

Good writers choose just the right words to create a clear and accurate picture for readers. Use **precise words** to describe your topic and show how you feel about it.



I wanted to describe zebras with precise words.

I used a thesaurus to find just the right words, such as "steady."

Write a Cinquain

Striped Horse

by Joshua M.

Zebra.

A horse with stripes,
Grazing on grassy plains.

Steady stallions watch over foals.
They sleep.



Your Turn

Write a cinquain to describe an animal. Think about how the animal survives. Choose colorful, precise words that paint a picture. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.

Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Do my details tell how I feel and what I want to say?
- Organization:** Does the organization of ideas in my poem make sense?
- Voice:** Can the reader tell that I care about the message in my poem?
- Word Choice:** Did I choose **precise words** to paint a picture of the animal?
- Sentence Fluency:** Does my poem sound pleasing?
- Conventions:** Have I used the right punctuation?