

how to write a

Rondeau

The rondeau poetry form originated in 14th century France, its name coming from *rond*, meaning 'round.' In its earliest form the rondeau was a courtly song, often passed along by troubadours. Themes included romance, worship and the change of seasons. The form lost popularity in the early 16th century as the sonnet and ballad took precedence, then experienced a revival with the Romantic poets of the 19th century.

Have more than one rondeau?
Make that
Rondeaux

Famous Rondeau poets

Adam de LaHalle
Guillaume de Machaut
Christine di Pisan
Francois Villon
Clement Marot
Eustache Deschamps
Theodore de Banville
Jean de la Fontaine
Maurice Rollinat
Thomas Wyatt

Famous Rondeaux

Death I Appeal - Francois Villon
The Hidden Law - W.H. Auden
We Wear the Mask -
Paul Lawrence Dunbar
In Flanders Fields - John McCrae
Listen, Everyone! - Jehan Vaillant



did you know?

RENTREMENT OF compulsion

R I must – yea, compelled! – to write a rondeau
a McCrae watched fields of poppies **blow**
b I need lines worthy of a troubadour
b To close forever Sandburg's open door
a Or make slivers of Williams' wheelbarrow

QUINTET

a It's harder to write haiku like Basho
a Sexton could just get a boat and **row**,
b Pretend to be Frost, go from oar to oar
R I must – yea, compelled –

QUATRAIN

a I have to make the right lines rhyme **now**
a So from them all I've had to **borrow**
b Can Williams double up and write La Flor?
b Or run to the corner poetry **store**
a Yet still I must make a very good **show**
R I must – yea, compelled!

SESTET

The rondeau influenced
american blues

WRITE YOUR OWN Rondeau

15 lines:
8-10 SYLLABLES EACH

3 stanzas:
QUINTET - QUATRAIN - SESTET

1 refrain:
RENTREMENT COMPRISED OF
THE FIRST FEW WORDS OR
FIRST LINE RECURS AS
LAST LINE OF STANZAS 2 & 3

2 rhymes:
A & B END WORDS



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