

CINQUAIN

BY KUSHAL CHAUDHRI

Adelaide Crapsey 1878-1914, an American poetess is supposed to have popularised Cinquain during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Fine Arts had been greatly influenced by Eastern forms based on the transitory nature of things. This effect was brought about by using few words on paper or few brush strokes on canvas.

CINQUAIN is a 5 lines stanza, loosely grouped under Terse Verse. Each piece starts with a Noun word in the First line, two adjectives in the Second and three Verbs in the Third, usually 'ing' action words. Fifth, has Noun again, a synonym or poetically equivalent to the First Word. Since captions are not used, it may serve as one if needed. Fourth line has four words and is reserved for the poet's imagination. Cinquain lines are not essentially iambic and punctuation is shunned. Usual poetic enhancements may be retained but not avidly sought.

Cataracts
Spectacular lofty
Cascading foaming neighing
Mega horses of water
Falls

Leeches
Creepy tubular
Clinging drinking bloating
Help purify bad blood
Suckers

Chili
Fiery hot
Seasoning tasting biting
Stings tongue burns bottom
Spice

Cinquains are used in American English schools as a Grammar learning tool and its popularity is spreading in several other countries.

Though as a form of literature it is quite a challenging task. The writer has only 4 slots out of 11 to express his feelings about the subtlety of a situation. Of course there are other interesting variants

It is an additional diversion for the intellectually minded person who likes crosswords, scrabble, sudoku and others.

Three Parkinson's Disease related Cinquains are cited hereunder as examples.

Bedfellow
Dogged dastardly
Suffering shuffling shaking
Who wooed you Parkinson's
Disease?

Statue
Stolid inert
Dressing worrying buttoning
Frozen in act perhaps
Parkie

News
Good great
Trying trying trying
"Carer! I could turn"
Headline