

Pantoum:

The pantoum comes to us from Malayan poetry. The Western (English) version of the pantoum is a poem of indefinite length made up of stanzas that have four lines. Each line has right around ten syllables total to create a natural rhythm. The formula comes in where lines 2 and 4 of each stanza are repeated as lines 1 and 3 of the following stanza:

First Stanza

Line #1

Line #2

Line #3

Line #4

Second Stanza

Line #1 (same as line #2 above)

Line #2

Line #3 (same as line #4 above)

Line #4

"embrace"

I close my heavy eyes in your embrace
surrounded by the circle of your arms
with happiness exuding from my face
while peace has worked to quiet my alarms

surrounded by the circle of your arms
now I could say that I at last know love
while peace has worked to quiet my alarms
we fought my fears, and then we rose above

now I could say that I at last know love
fulfillment, bliss, security and strength
we fought my fears, and then we rose above
and pledged ourselves to love for life's full length

fulfillment, bliss, security and strength
our union's always had inherent grace
we pledged ourselves to love for life's full length
so close your heavy eyes in my embrace.