



The Triolet

The triolet is an eight-line poem with the rhyme scheme ABaAabAB where the capital letters stand for repeating lines.

Here are two examples by Gordon Hoyle

Triolet 1

You may find I'm hard to swallow,
So late, and trying to join in.
Will you lead, or will you follow?
You may find I'm hard to swallow,
Sometimes sharp and sometimes mellow
With no preference, lose or win.
You may find I'm hard to swallow,
So late, and trying to join in.

Triolet 2

The almost upright sturdy tree
She nursed from floppy sapling
And it so pleased her just to see
The almost upright sturdy tree.
From which, such comely lass was she,
Came joy through playful grappling
The almost upright sturdy tree
She nursed from floppy sapling.

And, famously, Wendy Cope combined a triolet with a Rousellian (Bagatelle Issue 19) twist:

Christmas Triolet

by Wendy Cope

It's Christmas, season of wild bells
And merry carols. On the floor
Are gifts in pretty paper shells....
It's Christmas, season of wild Belle's
Big party. George's stomach swells
With ale: his wife's had even more.
It's Christmas, season of wild belles,
And merry Carol's on the floor.