

Twelve River RIPPLES

Bagatelle



The Fib

The Fib is an experimental form of syllabic poetry like the haiku but of Western origin. The idea with Fib poetry is to create a poem using the Fibonacci sequence (Leonardo Fibonacci *Liber Abaci* (1202)).

The mathematical Fibonacci sequence is where the next number is the sum of the two preceding numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13

Fibonacci sequences also appear in nature: they are present in the branching of trees, the fruitlets of a pineapple, the seeds in a sunflower head, the arrangement of a pine cone – to name but a few.

The idea with a Fib poem is to create the sequence with syllables – typically of six lines and therefore 20 Syllables:

Line one – one syllable
Line two – one syllable
Line three – two syllables
Line four – three syllables
Line five – five syllables
Line six – eight syllables

John Frederick Nims discussed the concept and formal expressions of Fib poetry as early as 1974. However, the six-line, 20-syllable Fib itself was brought to wider public attention by Gregory K. Pincus on 1 April 2006 (Wikipedia).

Maybe 1 April was appropriate?

For more information read Deborah Haar Clark's essay 1,1,2,3,5,8 ...Fun on the *Poetry Foundation* website:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68971/1-1-2-3-5-8-fun>

Like victims

palm
trees
bow down
towards the
water whipped by winds
into an obedient voice

Fran Reader

(Informed by The Poetry School: Adventures in Form with Simon Barraclough (2012))