

# Twelve River RIPPLES

## Bagatelle



### The American Cinquain

As someone who is hooked on haiku, haibun, haiga and tanka, I couldn't resist Fran's challenge to have a go at the American Cinquain with its rigorous system of syllable and stress counting. I decided to write something in opposition to the example given of Adelaide Crapsey's 'November Night' poem and came up with not autumn but the coming

of spring, not night but day. The syllable counting proved fairly straightforward, but the stress is a bit tricky, depending on the reader's interpretation and therefore reading of the poem. Anyway, my own interpretation seems to give the right stress on the right syllable as far as I can tell. Read it aloud and see what you think.

### In Anticipation of the First Day of Spring

Waiting...  
that pregnant pause  
whilst the sap starts to rise,  
while buds like angel wings unfurl -  
almost.

*Julia Duke*