ADVANCED PLACEMENT**ENGLISH**

*Poetry:* The Double Dactyl

The *higgledy-piggledy* is a fixed form of double dactyls.

* The first line is *higgledy-piggledy* or other rhyming nonsense.
* The second is a name.
* The fourth and eighth lines rhyme and consist of one dactyl followed by one stressed syllable. One line must be a single double dactyl word.

Some examples:

### 1: Room with a View

Higgledy-piggledy

Emily Dickinson

Looked out her front window

Struggling for breath,

Suffering slightly from

Agoraphobia:

“Think I’ll just stay in and

Write about Death.”

### 2

Higgledy-piggledy

Doctor D. Livingstone

Scottish explorer of

Note but of whom

Chiefly we know by the

Anticlimactical

Greeting by Stanley, who

Said “I presume.”

### 3

Higgledy Piggledy

Romeo Montague

Thought his love dead and so

Poisoned himself

Juliet, hasty but

Eschatological,

Died lest she leave him a-

Lone on the shelf.

### 4: Tact

“Patty cake, patty cake,

Marcus Antonius,

What do you think of the

African queen?”

“Gubernatorial

Duties require my

Presence in Egypt. Ya

Know what I mean?”

### 5: Double-Dactyl

Higgledy-Piggledy

Dactyls in dimeter,

Verse form with choriambs

(Masculine rhyme):

One sentence (two stanzas)

Hexasyllabically

Challenges poets who

Don’t have the time.

### 6: Titus

Higgledy-Piggledy

Titus Andronicus

Baking a dish forTa-

mora the Queen

Anthropophagically

Speaking a triumph, a

Three-star addition to

Nouvelle cuisine.

—Louisa Newlin

**The Double Dactyl: Write Your Own**

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* The first line is “*Higgledy-piggledy”* or other rhyming nonsense.
* The second line is a name.
* The fourth and eighth lines rhyme and each consist of one dactyl followed by one stressed syllable.
* One line must be one single double dactyl word.

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