

# Zanze

## Last Public American Hanging

*20,000 gathered at Owensboro, Kentucky August 1936*

- 8A Rainey Bethea, young black man  
8b hanged for rape at just twenty-three.  
8a Sheriff hangman was a woman.  
8b She could appoint a deputy.
- 6c Rainey Bethea, young,  
6d was given a false rap?  
6c The day he would be hung  
6d Ex-soldier sprung the trap.
- 4e A river gallows  
4f R. Bethea  
4e What law allows  
4f public can see.
- 2g Few wept.  
4a Some cheering fans.  
6g Rainey, some ate, some slept,  
8A Rainey Bethea, young black man

**Zanze:** Created by Walden Greenwell

16 lines. 4 quatrains.

Syllable Count: 8-8-8-8 6-6-6-6 4-4-4-4 2-4-6-8

Rhyme Scheme: A-b-a-b c-d-c-d e-f-e-f g-a-g-A

1<sup>st</sup> line is repeated as last line. 5<sup>th</sup> line is the repetition of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 syllables of 1<sup>st</sup> line.  
9<sup>th</sup> line is repetition of first 4 syllables of 1<sup>st</sup> line. 13<sup>th</sup> line is repetition of 1<sup>st</sup> 2 syllables  
of 1<sup>st</sup> line.