

Double Dactyls

Blood-jetting, blood-letting
poet Sylvia Plath
fearing the bell jar's fall
ended her life.

Writing so feverishly
super-transcendentally
craftily ceased being
Ted Hughes' wife.

Red-flaming, bed-blaming
the poet Anne Sexton
imprisoned by madness she
turned on the gas.

Writing her fantasies
phantasmagorically
found that reality
failed her, alas.

Inchily-pinchily
shy seamstress Hazel Hall
stitched her words and threads
and found them hemmed.

Rhymes formed the fabric
needily-wheedily
created poetry
when sewed or penned.

Double Dactyls:

1. Two quatrains playing with dactylic meter.
2. Set Pattern
First Quatrain:
Line 1. Nonsense words. 2 dactyls.
Line 2. reference to the person you are writing about.
Line 3. Two dactyls.
Line 4. Four beats.

Second Quatrain:
Second line has the nonsense words. Last line the four beats.
Lines 4 and 8 rhyme.

3. The pattern looks like this.

/= hard
u=soft

/uu /uu
/uu /uu
/uu /uu
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/uu /uu
/uu /uu
/uu /uu
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