

Poetry
is
fun!

AMY KITCHENER'S ANGELS WITHOUT WINGS FDN.
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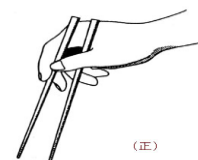


... FROM THE CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Poetry Gains Another Great Contest!



Amy's Meeting the Muse Challenge: CHOP CHOP A NEW POETIC FORM TO LIFE
REINTRODUCING THE "CHINESE COUPLET" CONTEST



In 2005, my friend Ann Parker and I were playing around with a favorite salutation she uses: *Chop chop*. My muse Amy Kitchener appeared, inspiring me to create a three-line poetic form called the Chinese Couplet. "A couplet is two rhyming lines," I said. Amy and Ann both replied, "Chop chop." I got the idea: *two lines rhyme, with a third line using the words chop chop anywhere in the poem*. It can be line 1, 2 or 3. Since chop chop is only two words, the other two lines must also be two rhyming words each. To sustain chop chop cadence, they must be single-syllable words. Complicating this arrangement of six words into three lines is the caveat from the muse: The three lines must tell a story, the reader's imagination filling in for descriptive words and action phrases that are missing.

The three-line Chinese Couplet should be a complete piece of work, line 1 being the Opening that introduces the problem; line 2 is the Middle drama; line 3 the Ending solves it. Impossible? Nah!! The challenge was introduced to the Springfield Writers Guild, Sleuths, Ink and Missouri Poets & Friends in my then-hometown of Springfield, Mo. Wow! Spectacular!!! We went public with the first Chinese Couplet contest via this newsletter. I invented the actual format and Ann Parker served as the contest's Chop Chop judge—and then the form was lost and forgotten—until Amy reappeared last month with an order: *Get the Chop Chop format into circulation and immortalize the Chinese Couplet!* "Yes, Muse," I said, then asked Ann's opinion. She said "Chop chop," which means yes. So, care to join us?

HOW TO WRITE A CHINESE COUPLET

The challenge is to write a three-line, six-word poem that implies a storylet or playlet in three acts summarized here:

Line 1—Introduces a problem or challenge

Line 2—drama/action taken to solve it

Line 3—resolution/solution to problem

Format includes one free-floating line (chop chop) that must appear in the poem and be relevant; the other two lines must be comprised to two single-syllable-word internally rhyming lines.

No titles or punctuation allowed. Use of capitals is optional.

CHINESE COUPLET EXAMPLES (WINNERS FROM FIRST CONTEST IN 2005)

Knife wife chop chop me free	Jerry-Mac Johnston Springfield, MO
chop chop raw slaw cheap heap	Yvonne Nunn Hermleigh, TX
chop chop wake snake jump stump	Bertha Johnson Sweetwater, TX
chop chop ate mate great plate	Terry D. Smith Fair Grove, MO
long song chop chop terse verse	Frieda Risvold Seattle, WA

CHOP CHOP CONTEST RULES

Deadline: 11/15/15 **Entry Fee: \$5/page**
AWARDS : ½ TOTAL ENTRY FEES
divided equally at Judges' discretion

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER

Make check to Wanda Sue Parrott
Enclose #10 Self-addressed stamped envelope
and send with entries to:
Wanda's Chop Chop Contest
Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942

Fill one side of a page with between 1 and 10 Chinese Couplets. There is no limit to # of poems or pages you can enter for \$5/page. Place name & contact info in upper right corner of each page. Send **ONLY** one copy per page.
No e-mail submissions.