

## Diamante

Students may tell you that a Diamante is a style of car by Mitsubishi, but before it was ever an automobile, it was a seven-line, diamond-shaped poem based on contrasting words:

Winter  
white and silver  
fading, sleeping, slowing down  
March exchanges vows with April  
nodding, rising, waking up  
green and goldburst  
Spring

The pattern is clear: lines two and six are two adjectives describing the beginning and ending nouns; lines three and five, three participles (*-ing* or *-ed* words) also describing the nouns; and line four, the pivotal turning point, which may be four words or a phrase. It's easy to get students started with diamantes: offer a few polarities with potential: *good/evil, sunlight/shadow, dream/nightmare, Beauty/Beast*. The trick is the fourth line—making the transition smooth.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Somers, Albert B. *Teaching Poetry in High School* (Urbana: NCTE, 1999), page 135. Copyright 1999 NCTE. All rights reserved.