Write an acrostic poem to reflect the forecast for tomorrow’s weather. Read the forecast on the weather page in today’s edition of *The Royal Gazette*. Choose a word (or words) from the forecast to incorporate into your poem. Write the word(s) vertically in the space below. Write your poem incorporating the word(s) in the appropriate places.

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**ACROSTIC**

An acrostic poem is one in which the lines are organised by the initial letters of a key word, either at the beginning of the lines, in the middle or at the end.

Here is an example of a single acrostic poem with the key word providing the third letter in each line:

We *were* tossed about,  
Whipped scarf, whipped leaves  
*Sen*t with a shout  
And a laugh, dancing over eaves  
Skywards.

More difficult is creating a double acrostic poem in which the initial and middle letters of the lines make words.

**Running Down** panes  
And then **Round** damp stones,  
**I** pool in **Ordinary** drains and  
**N**ow form **Pale** ocean waves.
Write an acrostic poem in response to an article you have read in today’s edition of *The Royal Gazette*. Choose a word (or words) from the headline and clip it (them) out and paste it (them) in the space below as the title of the poem. Now write the same word(s) vertically. Then write the lines of your poem, making sure that the word that starts each line begins with the corresponding letter in the headline word.

ACROSTIC

A single acrostic poem is one in which the initial letters of the lines make words which are read vertically.

Here’s an example of a single acrostic poem:

MISS WORLD

M esdemoiselles
I mmaculate in
S linky swimsuits
S trut their stuff
W hile
O thers admire
R eady smiles
L ong legs and
D elightful personalities.

A picture of a charming lady goes here.
It was deleted to reduce the file size.
Use stories printed in *The Royal Gazette* as inspiration for a ballad. Clip out the article and paste it in the space below and write the ballad next to it. Your ballad may be about a tragic event, or perhaps the career of a sports hero, like English Premier Division striker, Shaun Goater.

**Ballads**

Ballads originated as poems said, or even sung, aloud by travelling minstrels. Traditional ballads are made up of quatrains (four-line verses) with a clear rhythm (iambic tetrameter, trimeter) and alternate lines rhyming.

Ballads are often about important events, usually heroic deeds or tragic events like shipwrecks and mine disasters. Another common theme is love gone wrong.

Here is the beginning of a ballad based on the sinking of the fishing boat *New Nuts* on 7 January, 2003.

**The Ballad of Bobby Lambe**

It was the year two thousand, three,  
Jan. seventh, to be exact,  
That Bobby Lambe, adrift at sea,  
Was victim of a sad mishap.

His fishing boat, *New Nuts* by name,  
In search of the *Altair*,  
Was swamped – with none aboard to blame –  
By waves that filled the air.
CINQUAIN

A cinquain is a five-line poem that tells about one idea, small detail or experience. It has lines arranged by words or by syllables. It has a pleasing rhythm, but no regular pattern of rhythm or rhyme, and can be capitalised and punctuated in any way – or not at all.

Here is an example of a syllable cinquain:

Teapot
Full of kitten
Normally full of tea!
Peaceful purring – should be bubbling
Spouter
Mark Lane

Here is an example of a word cinquain:

Depression
Very lonely
Having no friends
Feeling downcast, frightened, unwanted
Frustration …
Dale McMechan

Use the following guidelines to create your own cinquain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sylable Cinquain</th>
<th>Word Cinquain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line 1 title</td>
<td>2 syllables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 2 description of the title</td>
<td>4 syllables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 3 action about the title</td>
<td>6 syllables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 4 feeling about the title</td>
<td>8 syllables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line 5 synonym for the title</td>
<td>2 syllables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a photograph from today’s edition of *The Royal Gazette*, cut it out and paste it in the space below. Underneath the photograph write a one-word caption for the picture. Use the caption as the first line of a cinquain, and write the rest of the poem beneath.
Who’s news today? Scan the headlines in *The Royal Gazette* for names of contemporary news makers. What quirks or foilables do they have? In the space below, list news makers and facts about them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News maker</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the information you have gathered to create clerihews. Use photos from the newspaper to illustrate your poem.

**The Clerihew**

Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1950) created a particular poetic form: a comic quatrain (four-line verse) with a rhyme scheme of aabb (two couplets). The poems contain anecdotes about well-known persons, and are usually humorous and sometimes satirical. He published his first collection of Clerihew poems *Biography for Beginners* in 1905.

The following poem was Bentley’s first, written while in secondary school. He was so tired of chemistry classes, that he wrote the poem to vent his frustration. Sir Humphrey Davy discovered potassium, calcium and sodium.

Sir Humphrey Davy
Abominated gravy.
He lived in the odium
Of having discovered sodium.

Here’s another:
Sir Christopher wren
Said, “I am going to dine with some men.”
If anyone calls,
say I am designing St. Paul’s.
Turn to the weather page in today’s edition of *The Royal Gazette*. Clip out the synopsis of today’s weather and paste it in the space below.

Write a haiku to describe the weather.

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**HAIKU**

A haiku is a particular form of poem which originated in Japan. Its charm is that it captures the essence of a topic very concisely.

The three-line poem is made up of words which total 17 syllables: 5 syllables on line 1; 7 syllables on line 2; 5 syllables on line 3.

It’s a contemplative poetry that values nature, colour, seasons, contrasts and surprises. It must record a moment, sensation, impression or dramatic element of a specific fact of nature.

Here are two poems by Japanese poet Basho (aka Matsuo Munefusa) 1644-1694.

The banana tree blown by winds pours raindrops into the bucket.

All along this road not a single soul – only autumn evening comes.
Create banks of rhyming words. Over several days, clip from the *The Royal Gazette* headlines words that rhyme and paste them in the appropriate boxes below. You may find them a useful reference as you write your own poetry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ight</th>
<th>-ear</th>
<th>-oo</th>
<th>-ough</th>
<th>-ie</th>
<th>-our</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>right</td>
<td>pear</td>
<td>book</td>
<td>bough</td>
<td>lie</td>
<td>colour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the spaces below, paste words that are written in a similar fashion, but are pronounced differently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>freight</th>
<th>rear</th>
<th>spook</th>
<th>cough</th>
<th>Nellie</th>
<th>flour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

* Punctuation is important to this poem – add a colon, comma and semi-colon.
Scan through the headlines in today’s edition of *The Royal Gazette* for words of two or more syllables. Cut them out and paste them in the appropriate spaces below. Indicate which syllable is stressed by writing / over the stressed syllable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two syllables</th>
<th>Three syllables</th>
<th>More than three syllables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

As a bonus, cut out one whole headline and paste it in the space below. See if you can work out which syllables would be stressed if the headline were read aloud. Can you find any headlines with a regular rhythm?
RIDDLES

There are riddles in Old English poetry dating back to the seventh and eighth centuries C.E. The subject matter of the riddles is drawn from everyday life. A number of the riddles are written in the first person, the speaker personifying the subject of the riddle. Sometimes the clues are paradoxes, statements that appear to be self-contradictory, yet actually are true.

The wave, over the wave, a weird thing I saw,
through-wrought, and wonderfully ornate;
a wonder on the wave – water became bone.

Anglo-Saxon poetry does not rhyme, but has very strong rhythms, suitable for chanting. There are four accented syllables or beats in each line, with a pause (caesura) after the second beat. Alliteration is used to link the two halves of the line. One or more accented syllables in the first half of a line almost always alliterate with the first accented syllable in the second half.

Here is an example of a modern riddle:
The land was white
The seed was black
It’ll take a good scholar
To riddle me that.

(Hint: It’s black and white and red all over.)

Scan the display ads in today’s edition of The Royal Gazette and clip out a picture of an item that appeals to you. Paste the picture in the space below, and write a modern riddle to describe it. Make sure you put in enough clues to make it solveable. Use metaphors and puns to make your riddle interesting. In the modern riddle at left, there is a pun: the white background of the paper – ground – land, and a metaphor: words are seeds of ideas. In the second red is a pun of read.

Now try re-writing your riddle in the Anglo-Saxon style.