

### Tch'est qu'est un englyn?

*Comme ches louêmes quéménchent les mots - d'samathées;  
dansent ès mathes, meuthent en d'so;  
les mauves lèvent l'âme, viyant l'vo  
en teurts libres à trilyi l'bro.*

An *englyn* is a traditional Welsh poem that is usually written in the Welsh language. Like other special forms of poetry, e.g. the sonnet and haiku, the *englyn* must conform to a set of rules. However, to make life complicated, there are various types of *englyn* and each has its own set of rules. There must be a certain number of syllables in each line and there must be rhymes at the end of lines and throughout lines, as well as the same sounds arranged within each line.

The *englyn* above, written by Geraint Jennings, is particularly special because it has been written in Jèrriais. No simple task! It abides by the following rules:

- Line 1: 10 syllables. The consonant sounds k-m-sh-l-m are repeated in the first 7 syllables.
- Line 2: 6 syllables. The consonant sounds d-s-m-th from the last 3 syllables of Line 1 are repeated in this line.
- Line 3: 7 syllables. The consonant sounds l-m-v-l-v are repeated in the same order.
- Line 4: 7 syllables. The consonant sounds t-r-l-b-r are repeated in the same order.

The ends of Lines 2, 3 and 4 all rhyme with the end of the 7-syllable section in Line 1.

*Notes for teachers*