



Name: _____

Class: ____ Date: _____

Write a Pantun

An activity of "Pantun: an elegant way to communicate"

Read "**Pantun: an elegant way to communicate**" (Story 10, *What's Up* May 2021 at digital.whatsup.sg). The pantun is a traditional form of Malay poetry. There are different ways to write a pantun, but the most common form has four lines.

The pantun has a song-like quality to it because:

- a) it uses alternating rhyming lines
- b) each line usually contains between 8 to 12 syllables.

What is a syllable?

It is a unit of pronunciation having *one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants*, forming the whole or a part of a word. For example, there is one syllable in pear, two syllables in apple (ap-ple) and three in elephant (el-le-phant). Syllables help give the pantun its rhythm.

In this example of a pantun, the hyphens show us which words have two syllables.

The squi-rrel moves on trees so **tall**
 But even it will one day tum-ble
 This is a les-son for us **all**
 To never gloat and to stay hum-ble

1. Write your own pantun here. Use a pencil so that you can erase words until you are happy with your pantun.

2. Try rapping or singing your lines to the music of your favourite songs!

Writing tips:

- Many pantun reference **nature and animals**. Many pantun also have a **moral message**.
- If you feel stuck, think of some **rhyming words** and plan your lines around them.
- Focus on the syllables after you know how you want to end each line.