



The Poet's Playground



Sestina Example 1: Theme – Seasons of Change

Six Words: leaf, wind, sky, time, heart, light

These words are evocative, versatile, and lend themselves to both literal and metaphorical interpretations. They make it easier for you to grasp how a sestina weaves meaning through repetition.

In example 1, the first three stanzas and the envoi have been completed. Challenge yourself to complete the last three stanzas. You will find my completed sestina; *Whispers in the Wind*, under the Poetry Pantry section in Poet's Playground.

Sestina: "Whispers in the Wind"

In autumn, I watched the final leaf
drift gently on a breath of wind. It
danced beneath the silver sky, a
quiet mark of passing time. I felt a
flutter in my heart, a flicker of
remembering light.

The trees reached up to catch the light
but could not hold one trembling leaf. A
pulse moved softly through my heart, the
rustle echoed by the wind. Each season
speaks the tongue of time, its stories
painted in the sky.

The clouds moved slowly through the sky,
their edges touched by golden light. The
quiet held the weight of time, each second
wrapped inside a leaf. The breeze
became a wiser wind and hummed a
hymn to my small heart.

Insert next three stanzas (six lines each)

Light dances with the wind each time.
The leaf still speaks to sky and heart. We
change, but beauty bends with time.



Sestina Example 2: Theme – The Ocean at Night

Six Words: wave, moon, deep, shore, star, sound

This one shows great passion and love for the sea and is great for demonstrating vivid sensory imagery and emotion.

In example 2, the first, third, and fifth stanzas and the first line of the envoi have been completed. Challenge yourself to complete the second, fourth and sixth stanza along with the last two lines of the envoi. You will find my completed sestina; *The Ocean at Night*, under the Reference Materials section in Poet's Playground.

Sestina: “Night Song of the Sea”

The hush began with one soft wave
beneath the gaze of a watching moon.
The sea exhaled from something deep
and sighed along the sleeping shore.
Above, a single silver star
began to hum a distant sound.

(Insert Second Stanza)

No light can reach the ocean deep,
but still it sings its sacred sound— a
love note tossed onto the shore, a
kiss blown forth by every wave, a
song it croons beneath the moon, a
hymn it hums to every star.

(Insert Fourth Stanza)

The tide returned to touch the shore
and bowed beneath the winking star.
It offered me a playful wave that
whispered stories from the deep. Its
language came in tone and sound
and danced beneath the silent moon.

(Insert Sixth Stanza)

The moon will pull each wave to shore,

(Insert Second Line of Envoi)

(Insert Third Line of Envoi)