

Double Dactyls

This verse form is governed by the following rules: (1) Each line is a double dactyl, except for the fourth and eighth which are truncated; (2) The first line is a nonsense word; (3) The second line is a proper name; (4) The sixth line is a single word; (5) The fourth line rhymes with the eighth; (6) The subject matter is biographical/historical.

Higgledy Piggledy	Higgledy Piggledy
Zeno of Elea	Father Parmenides
Cried “Heraclitus was	Learned from a goddess the
Surely deranged!	Following lore:
Nothing but stasis is	Nature is nothing but
Unparadoxical.	Oleomargarine,
Everything, always, is	Fully homogenized
Wholly unchanged.”	Right to the core.
(P. van I.)	(P. van I.)

Higgledy Piggledy	Higgledy Piggledy
Ludwig J. Wittgenstein	Herr Rektor Heidegger
Cautioned the <i>Junge</i> with	Cautioned his students “To
Whom he had erred,	Being be true,
“Don’t spill the beans to that	Lest you should fall into
Psychohistorian	Inauthenticity.
W.W.	This I believe—and
Bartley III.”	The <i>Führer</i> does too.”
(P. van I)	(P. van I.)

Chuffity Puffity
Lewis (the Princeton one),
Seeing a steam engine
Come down the line,
Wishes to self-ascribe
Nonpropositionally
“Lives at a world at which
This train is mine”.
(S.B.F.)

Higgledy Piggledy
Berkeley of Kilkenny
Johnson hoped kicking a
Stone to refute,
Never suspecting its
Materiality
Senseless and vacuous and
Pointless to boot.

(P.M.)