

The Double Dactyl: Write Your Own

The *higgledy-piggledy* is a fixed form of double dactyls.

- The first line is “*Higgledy-piggledy*” or other rhyming nonsense.
- The second line is a name.
- The fourth and eighth lines rhyme and each consist of one dactyl followed by one stressed syllable.
- One line must be one single double dactyl word.

/	—	—	/	—	—

nonsense

/	—	—	/	—	—

proper name

/	—	—	/	—	—

/	—	—	/		

rhyme

/	—	—	/	—	—

/	—	—	/	—	—

/	—	—	/	—	—

/	—	—	/		

rhyme

Romeo

Higgledy Piggledy
Romeo Montague
Thought his love dead and so
Poisoned himself.
Juliet, hasty but
Eschatological,
Died lest she leave him a-
Lone on the shelf.

Room with a View

Higgledy-piggledy
Emily Dickinson
Looked out her front window
Struggling for breath,
Suffering slightly from
Agoraphobia:
“Think I’ll just stay in and
Write about Death.”

Titus

Higgledy Piggledy
Titus Andronicus
Baking a dish for Ta-
mora the Queen
Anthropaphagically
Speaking a triumph—A
Three-star addition to
Nouvelle cuisine.