

Poetic Form – luc bat

The luc bat is a Vietnamese poetic form that means “six-eight.” In fact, the poem consists of alternating lines of six and eight syllables. This poem is interesting in its rhyme scheme that renews at the end of every eight-syllable line and rhymes on the sixth syllable of both lines.

Here’s a diagram of how the first few lines of luc bat poems should rhyme:

xxxxxA
xxxxxAxB
xxxxxB
xxxxxBxC
xxxxxC
xxxxxCxD
xxxxxD
xxxxxDxE

And so on. Luc bat poems have no set length or subject matter, and some run on for thousands of lines.

A Luc Bat Poem

A luc bat poem is such
You need not say so much at all
Simple words can enthrall
It can be simple and small or big
An epic thingamajig
Alter words make them fig or fit
The poetic licence bit
Just like that line of **** or ****
Whatever, give it a bash
Now my mind I must thrash and beat
And turn these humble feet
So first and last line meet and touch

Ryter Roethicle

Here’s my attempt at a luc bat poem:

“Median”

Sometimes, I’d rather start
close to the middle part of love
after the stars above
but before crying doves fly off
in a Boris Karloff
and David Hasselhoff type way
near the end of a play
about a rainy day gone bad—
the end is always sad
with someone being had—you know,
a medias res show.