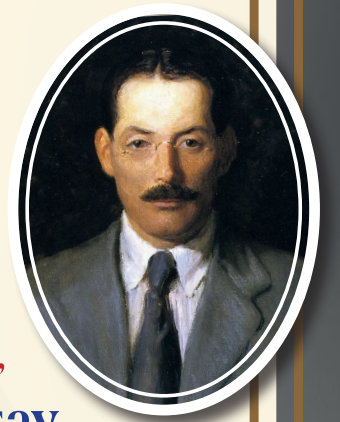


What is a Villanelle?

A VILLANELLE is a fixed verse form of poetry consisting of five tercets followed by a quatrain. The first and third lines of the opening tercet appear alternately at the end of the remaining tercets and as the final two lines of the quatrain. Each tercet follows the rhyme scheme **aba**. The quatrain follows the scheme **abaa**.

The House on the Hill

by Edwin Arlington Robinson



a They are all gone away,
b The House is shut and still,
a There is nothing more to say.

a Through broken walls and gray
b The winds blow bleak and shrill:
a They are all gone away.

a Nor is there one to-day
b To speak them good or ill:
a There is nothing more to say.

a Why is it then we stray
b Around the sunken sill?
a They are all gone away,

a And our poor fancy-play
b For them is wasted skill:
a There is nothing more to say.

a There is ruin and decay
b In the House on the Hill:
a They are all gone away,
a There is nothing more to say.