



THE WAYRA (Peru and Bolivia)

(Here's another good one to do with young writers!)

This ancient poetic form comes from Peru and Bolivia. The wayra originated in a Quechua language (also called Runa Simi in southern Quechua speaking areas) and the word itself means *wind*. From there it made its way into Spanish literature. The form is a simple one. It is five lines long with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second and third lines, 6 in the fourth line and 8 in the final line. It can be about any subject. See mine below.

NOTE: there are various sites around the internet that make a couple of claims about wayra poems. 1.) they use onomatopoeia and 2.) they should NOT rhyme. I haven't been able to verify this with a native speaker. So, use one of these parameters if you wish. (In my poem, below, I use alliteration with all those *Ds*.)

An Example:

UNLOVED

Ugh—a centipede!
My stomach drops, disgusted.
I do dislike its scurry.
Those legs! Please hurry off—
dart back into the damp and dark.

Shutta

RESOURCES

<https://www.poetrymagnumopus.com/topic/2187-wayra/>

<https://christinebialczak.com/2024/04/08/looking-at-poems-around-the-world-the-wayra/>