



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [A. E. Stallings](#) and [Erica Dawson](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt:

Read “Sestina: Like” and “Fairy Tale Logic” by A. E. Stallings.

Think about how these poems use the formal laws of the sestina and sonnet, respectively, to talk about contemporary phenomena, such as the Facebook like.

If it would be helpful, you can read more about the [sestina](#) and the [sonnet](#) before you begin.

Now: What other aspects of contemporary life could you imagine a sestina or a sonnet to accommodate and express? It could be the Twitter hashtag, or the names of stops called out on the bus, or a particular trend in language or in fashion or music.

Write a sestina or sonnet that tackles this contemporary idea. As you write, think about how to keep your language as natural and contemporary as possible. Remember, you’re writing a poem for our time in the language of our time. How might this form help you reimagine or reflect on a concept from our contemporary moment?