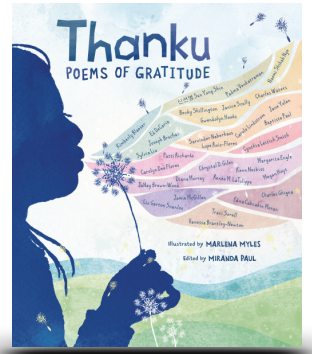


# How to Write a Tricube Poem

The prefix “tri” means three. A **tricube** is a poem that has three stanzas. Each stanza has three lines. Each line has three syllables. The poem “Each Scar” by Baptiste Paul is an example of a tricube.



## Each Scar

By Baptiste Paul

My mom says  
be thankful  
for each scar.

Don't be fooled! Even though this line has only two words, there are still three beats (called syllables), because “thankful” is a 2-syllable word and “be” is one syllable (2+1=3).

So I play.  
Fail each day.  
Lose my way.

Each stanza has three lines in it, and each line has three syllables.

Bash, crash, rough—  
Mom, it's tough  
to thank scars.

There are three stanzas (blocks of text) in the entire poem. Count them. 1-2-3!

## Try a tricube—in three steps!

1. Think up a topic and brainstorm words, feelings, or experiences to describe it.
2. Write 1-5 sentences that describe the feeling or experience. Count the syllables in your sentences to see how close you are to having 27 syllables (3x3x3, or 3<sup>3</sup>).
3. Break what you've written into three parts. Delete or swap out words (a thesaurus can help) until you've got exactly three stanzas with three lines each, and three words per line.

Bonus Step #4—share your tricube with [Thanku: Poems of Gratitude](#) authors by asking a grown-up to tag @baptistepaul on social media!