**Kinds of Line Breaks**

1.Breaking on complete phrases or sentences (at a natural pause) make the reading easier for the reader

**Sonnet 18: Shall I Compare Thee**

Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer’s lease hath all too short a date;

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance or nature’s changing course untrimm'd;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow’st;

Nor shall death brag thou wander’st in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou grow’st:

   So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

   So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

William Shakespeare

2. Enjambment, breaking at moments which chop up the information of the poems, creates momentum or downward pull for the reader. Enjambed lines can turn the poem in surprising ways.

**Directions:** Experiment by changing the layout of each of your poems in at least three different ways. Then pick one (or a combination of more than one) for the final version of your poems.

**To a Poor Old Woman**

munching a plum on

the street a paper bag

of them in her hand

They taste good to her

They taste good

to her. They taste

good to her

You can see it by

the way she gives herself

to the one half

sucked out in her hand

Comforted

a solace of ripe plums

seeming to fill the air

They taste good to her

William Carlos Williams

3. Line breaks can visually impose a sense of order or form on a poem by simply being regular in length,

Patent Pending

I have an invention

ready for the patent

office which I know

will benefit mankind

it is a kind of ink

and little pen and

magnifying glass so

everyone can write

a saying of Gautama

on each fingernail

and read them there

the minute that his

hands begin to feel

like picking up a gun

James Laughlin

# 4. Line breaks that play with space can orchestrate the reader's experience. Some poets score the poems like music and tempo

# Don’t Let That Horse . . .

Don’t let that horse

                              eat that violin

    cried Chagall’s mother

                                     But he

                      kept right on

                                     painting

And became famous

And kept on painting

*The Horse With Violin In Mouth*

And when he finally finished it

he jumped up upon the horse

                                        and rode away

          waving the violin

And then with a low bow gave it

to the first naked nude he ran across

And there were no strings

                                     attached

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

