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## Playing with Poetry

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A **cento** is a Roman poetic form meaning “stitched together”: each line of the poem is drawn from a different source. “Centos” also resonates with the number one hundred, and many centos are a hundred lines long. We will each write a deci-cento by compiling ten lines from any texts we happen to have with us. These can be things in your bag (*e.g.*, books, magazines, syllabi, etc.) or things in your head (*e.g.*, things your mother always says, movie lines, misheard song lyrics, clichés, news headlines, overheard conversation, etc.).

Three requirements:

- Mix lines from things on paper and things from your head.
- Focus on language rather than narrative.
- Experiment with alliteration and enjambment

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**Alliteration** is a stylistic device in which successive words (more strictly, stressed syllables) begin with the same consonant sound or letter.

**Enjambment** is when one line ends without a pause and continues into the next line for its meaning. This is also called a run-on line. The transition between the first two lines of Wordsworth's poem "My Heart Leaps Up" demonstrates enjambment:

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky