

## THE CLERIHEW

Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1950) created a particular poetic form: a comic quatrain (four-line verse) with a rhyme scheme of aabb (two couplets). The poems contain anecdotes about well-known persons, and are usually humorous and sometimes satirical. He published his first collection of Clerihew poems *Biography for Beginners* in 1905.

The following poem was Bentley's first, written while in secondary school. He was so tired of chemistry classes, that he wrote the poem to vent his frustration. Sir Humphrey Davy discovered potassium, calcium and sodium.

Sir Humphrey Davy  
Abominated gravy.  
He lived in the odium  
Of having discovered sodium.

Here's another:  
Sir Christopher wren  
Said, "I am going to dine with some men."  
If anyone calls,  
say I am designing St. Paul's.

Jennifer Hind, "Clerihew," *The Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, 2003.

Who's news today? Scan the headlines in *your newspaper* for names of contemporary news makers. What quirks or foibles do they have? In the space below, list news makers and facts about them.

News maker	Information

Use the information you have gathered to create clerihews. Use photos from the newspaper to illustrate your poem.


