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Poetry

For the most part, poetry is marked up the same way as other text.

Use `Normal` style for the content, and `Heading` styles for chapters, sections, and poem titles.

Poetry is an artistic medium, so we retain direct formatting such as: strong, emphasis, underline, and strikethrough.

Languages can be applied as needed. See the Language section for more info.

> If you come across a poem that is an epigraph, or styled as a blockquote in the original ebook, apply the `Quote` style. These usually appear at the beginning of chapters, or within non-poetry ebooks. When in doubt, ask!

Complex Formatting and Producer's Notes

Sometimes you will come across a poem that has more complex formatting that cannot be translated to EPUB.

We cannot retain this formatting for EPUB conversion.

> If you have any complex formatting that is not covered below, please ask in the Q&A.

Producer's Note

In these cases where we have removed complex formatting include a Producer's Note section at the beginning of the book.

> **Producer's Note [Heading Style 1]**
>
> This book originally appeared with special paragraph and line spaces that added to the meaning of the text. Due to the conversion process these design elements have been removed.

> You can update the example above to reflect the formatting of the collection you are working on.

For more info, see the Producer's Note page.

Common Types of Complex Formatting

The more common forms of complex formatting are:

- spacing,
- line justification,
- and concrete poetry.

In poetry the use of blank space on a page, between lines, words, or even letters, can be used to convey meaning. We do not retain blank spaces.

Lines, stanzas, or entire poems can use right justification to convey meaning. We do not retain right justification.

A concrete poem is a poem where the words create a shape on the page that conveys a visual meaning. We do not retain the original shape of a concrete poem.

> If you have a concrete poem, simply keep the line break/word breaks as they originally appear with left justification.

Example Original Poem:

Example Transcribed Poem:

expresses its

regret

for the

ramifications of former wrongs and its commitment to

build on the positive relationships of the past and

present to move toward a brighter future where all the

people of this land live reconciled as brothers and

sisters and harmoniously steward and protect

the

island together

Images in Poems

Sometimes you will come across images of text in poems. This is a big no-no in publishing and not accessible. See the section on Images of Text for more info.

We transcribe all images of text and mark up with the appropriate NNELS styles.

Sometimes you will find the poet has used an image of a black bar to signify the censorship of a word of phase. In this can you can keep the image and add the alt-text "Thick black bar blocking out word/phrase."

Q&A Archive

Q: I have a follow up question about the poetry book, How to Dress a Fish. In your answer below regarding the sections of text that are censored with a black box, you said, "Keep the black boxes and add the alt-text "thick black line that blocks out word" ". I'm just looking for some clarification around this.

I expected that the black boxes would be images of black boxes since you said to add alt-text for them. I've actually found that all the black boxes I've encountered so far (I'm about 30% through) are regular text in the docx file - so, I can see the word that was originally blacked out in the text and there are no images of black boxes to add alt-text to.

So, to format it to be like the original, I was deleting the word meant to be blacked out and then inserting the Unicode that you gave me for another poetry book, U+25AC. But I just realized that I can instead highlight the word that needs to be blacked out and use the highlight tool to make it black. Then it looks just like the original. Is it okay to proceed that way? There are also some words that are highlighted grey but still legible and I thought I could apply this technique to these as well. Does highlighting words work when you do the XML markup? If this approach won't work, should I stick with the Unicode symbol of a black bar?

A: Sorry for the confusion. Highlighting is not accessible, most direct formatting is not which is why we rely so heavy on styles. Your original approach to deleting and inserting the black bar is the best way to go. Keep it as close to the original as possible. Great work!

Q: I am currently working on the poetry book "Render" and one of the poems, "Following the Leader", was created to look like a list with sequential numbering on each line. Should I format the poem as a list (to avoid confusion from the sequential numbering) or leave the poem as it is because some of the

sentences are spread across multiple lines?

A: Recreate it with the same numbers as it is in the original. The poet meant for the lines to break up like that, as this is a common technique in poetry to convey meaning and emotion.

Q: Also in "Render," there is a poem (There's Nothing There)that is created to look like a table and was formatted as a table during the conversion process. Should I leave this poem in the table format?

A: This is not a table, it is three columns. Tables are used for tabular data, in this case it was used to create the layout for the columns. This is not accessible, and is also poor publishing practice. To create columns see Columns section.

Q: I'm wondering about alignment and spacing. The poet in the book I'm editing (Silvija) makes use of left and right justification at some points in the book. Should I align the text as the poet did or stick to right justification only? Also, the book contains a lot of white space (poems are on separate pages). Should I add page breaks in this case? Finally, I just want to verify that the slash ('/') that is used in poetry should remain as written or changed somehow for conversion into DAISY? Thanks!

A: Poetry is a controversial area of ebook production :) NNELS takes the approach of using left justification for all our documents. For some people, text justification may present readability issues. Extended spaces between words and sometimes letters within words can create spaces of white that can visually dominate the text. If you use screen magnification then magnifying these spaces of white, in particular the space in between words, can increase the need for scrolling beyond what would be required if text was aligned to one side.

You can delete all empty pages as we don't have to worry about retaining the original page numbers in this work.

And yes, do use all the original punctuation. TTS is good at reading punctuation. If you're curious how TTS can read text, you can enable the built-in dictation software on your iOS (VoiceOver) or Windows. Keep in mind that TTS software tend to differ Screenreaders.

Q: Currently working on Pendent que Perceval Tombait (poem). I saw a previous Q&A mentioned that all blank pages should be removed (we do not need to keep same page numbering), but we can keep the text on separate pages for the poetry book. I know that we also have to remove page breaks. Is this the exception for page breaks? The answer in that Q&A was not clear to me. Otherwise, how would you keep the text on separate pages? There are often no headings, so I can't even use headings as a divider instead. Each page has 4-5 lines, and then skips to the next page.

A: That was back from when we did DAISY. I removed that line from the wiki. Just format it with headings and no page breaks. We don't keep page numbering in conversion.

Q: Another question about My Art is Killing Me (poetry). There are parts of the poems that use a different color for the words to convey the author speaking to the reader.

I know that we do not do this. Is this something that also goes into the production note? Or is there a

Tell me, who is being *consumed*?

me threatening messages, alongside the

messages

sed sexual violence to me. I don't know

how to respond

to this mind fuck

of a division

within my DMs.

way to emphasize this?

A: Put a not in a Producer's Note stating the original used colour to convey emphasis and was removed in this version. We can not apply our own emphasis as that would be editing the book with our interpretation of the artist's intent and would break copyright law. Unfortunately, as you know, coloured font is not accessible. The Producer's Note is the middle ground.

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