

TEI BY EXAMPLE



MODULE 4: POETRY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

6. Advanced Encoding.....	1
6.1 Components of the Verse Line.....	1
6.2 Dedications.....	1
6.3 Acrostics.....	3

6. Advanced Encoding

6.1 Components of the Verse Line

It is often convenient for various kinds of analysis to encode further subdivisions of verse lines. This can be done using the `<seg>` element which contains any arbitrary phrase-level unit of text (including other `<seg>` elements).

The third and the fourth stanzas of our poem, for instance, contain lines which include two items each, except for line 13. The appropriate encoding could be the following:

```
<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="stanza" n="3">
  <l><seg type="item">Paper towels</seg> / <seg type="item">garbage bags</seg></l>
  <l><seg type="item">Pasta sauce</seg> and <seg type="item">Parmesan</seg></l>
  <l><seg type="item">Pumpkin seed</seg> and <seg type="item">olive oil</seg></l>
</lg>
<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="stanza" n="4">
  <l><seg type="item">Cheesy crisps</seg> and <seg type="item">favourite mags</seg></l>
  <l>
    <seg type="item">Kidney beans (1 large can)</seg>
  </l>
  <l><seg type="item">Cling film</seg> and <seg type="item">kitchen foil</seg></l>
</lg>
```

Example 30. Identifying low-level structures with `<seg>`.

6.2 Dedications

If the poem is encoded as an `<lg>`, the TEI doesn't have an "out of the box" solution to deal with dedications which appear under the title of the poem. In the case a dedication needs to be encoded, there are two viable options. The first one is to consider the dedication as a `<head>` and use its `@type` attribute for specifying its function as a "dedication":

```
<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem">
  <head>Shopping</head>
  <head type="dedication">To my sweetest son</head>
  <lg type="stanza" n="1">
```

```

<l n="1">Poppadom</l>
<l n="2">Oatmeal</l>
<l n="3">Bubble gum</l>
<l n="4">Cut of veal</l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" n="2">
  <l n="5">Mince for pie</l>
  <l n="6">Frozen peas</l>
  <l n="7">Video for Guy</l>
  <l n="8">Selection of teas</l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" n="3">
  <l n="9">Paper towels/garbage bags</l>
  <l n="10">Pasta sauce and Parmesan</l>
  <l n="11">Pumpkin seed and olive oil</l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" n="4">
  <l n="12">Cheesy crisps and favourite mags</l>
  <l n="13">Kidney beans (1 large can)</l>
  <l n="14">Cling film and kitchen foil</l>
</lg>
</lg>

```

Example 31. Encoding a dedication following a heading as a special `<head>`.

The second option is to encode the poem as a `<div type="poem">` instead of an `<lg type="poem">`, and consider the title as an anonymous block `<ab>` with a value of "dedication" for its `@type` attribute.

```

<div xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem">
  <head>Shopping</head>
  <ab type="dedication">To my sweetest son</ab>
  <lg type="stanza" n="1">
    <l n="1">Poppadom</l>
    <l n="2">Oatmeal</l>
    <l n="3">Bubble gum</l>
    <l n="4">Cut of veal</l>
  </lg>

```

```

<lg type="stanza" n="2">
  <l n="5">Mince for pie</l>
  <l n="6">Frozen peas</l>
  <l n="7">Video for Guy</l>
  <l n="8">Selection of teas</l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" n="3">
  <l n="9">Paper towels/garbage bags</l>
  <l n="10">Pasta sauce and Parmesan</l>
  <l n="11">Pumpkin seed and olive oil</l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" n="4">
  <l n="12">Cheesy crisps and favourite mags</l>
  <l n="13">Kidney beans (1 large can)</l>
  <l n="14">Cling film and kitchen foil</l>
</lg>
</div>

```

Example 32. Encoding a dedication after a heading as <ab> inside <div>.

6.3 Acrostics

One example of the use of the <seg> element for further advanced analysis is the following proposal to signal the presence of an acrostic in a poem. In this poem by Edgar Allan Poe, entitled “An Acrostic,” the first letters of each line of verse together form the first word of the first line: “Elizabeth.”

```

<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0">
  <l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 1)">E</seg>lizabeth it is in vain you
    say</l>
  <l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 2)">L</seg>ove not" - thou sayest it
    in so sweet a way:</l>
  <l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 3)">I</seg>n vain those words from thee
    or L.E.L.</l>
  <l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 4)">Z</seg>antippe's talents had
    enforced so well:</l>
  <l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 5)">A</seg>h! if that language from thy
    heart arise,</l>

```

```
<l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 6)">B</seg>reath it less gently forth -  
and veil thine eyes.</l>  
<l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 7)">E</seg>ndymion, recollect, when  
Luna tried</l>  
<l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 8)">T</seg>o cure his love - was cured  
of all beside -</l>  
<l><seg type="acros" rend="acros('ELIZABETH', 9)">H</seg>is follie - pride - and  
passion - for he died.</l>  
</lg>
```

Example 33. A possible encoding of an acrostic.