A cinquain is a five-line poem.
A cinquain can be used to describe a character in a story.

Line 1: one word (subject or noun)
Line 2: two words (adjectives) that describe line 1
Line 3: three words (action verbs) that relate to line 1
Line 4: four words (feelings or a complete sentence) that relates to line 1
Line 5: one word (synonym of line 1 or a word that sums it up)

Example (from Hatchet)

Brian
afraid, hungry
sleeping, searching, gathering
Brian needs a fire.
Survivor