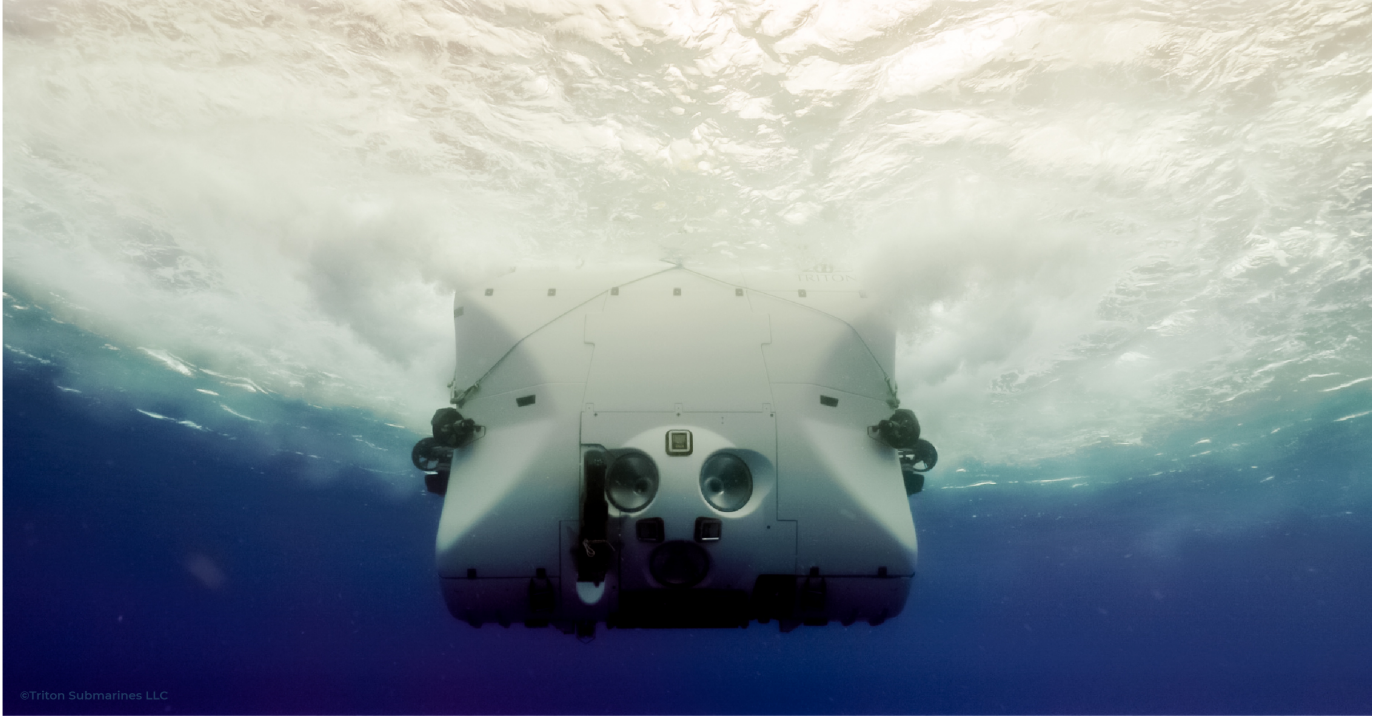


Less means more - from the ocean floor

Venture
to the
Deep



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Richard Garriott, explorer, adventurer, video-game inventor has set himself a challenge. He aims to be the first person ever to have:

- orbited the earth as an astronaut, and
- dived to explore the wreck of the Titanic, and
- set foot on the North Pole, the Equator and the South Pole, and, in February
- dived to the deepest part of the world's oceans, the Mariana Trench.

The Mariana Trench is in the Pacific, near Guam. Richard will be diving to 7 miles below the surface enclosed in a specially-constructed small submarine. Inside, he will have very little space to move and will have to operate the submarine's propulsion system, cameras, probes and communications. That's a very small space with a lot of clever stuff in it! In such a small space he will have to be very organised and disciplined.



A Venture Thinking educational project.
This resource has been created in collaboration with
The National Association for the Teaching of English)
and supported by Ideas Foundation



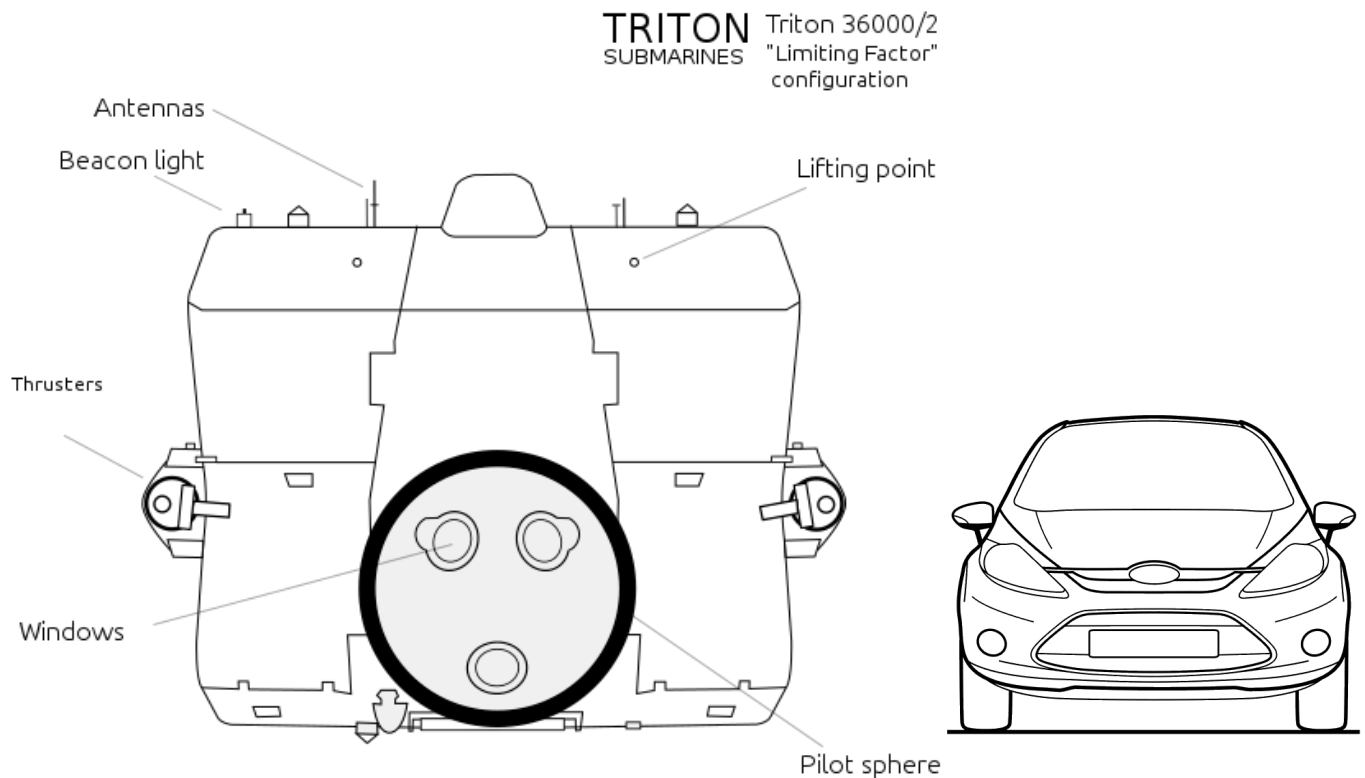
When Richard is on the ocean floor, he will have 4 hours to be able to observe the strange life-forms of the permanent cold and dark and take samples from the water to test for any pollution. It takes 4 hours to go down and 4 hours to go up. That gives him some time to do some reading.

Richard needs any reading to be short. It needs to fit onto a small piece of paper. His challenge to you is to write something interesting in a very small space, with rules that have to be observed and with only the most necessary words to keep him interested. It's a writing challenge that matches the situation he will be in: using a very precisely organised and compressed structure to go somewhere mysterious, exciting, dangerous and observed by only a handful of human beings. Less space but plenty to do in it.

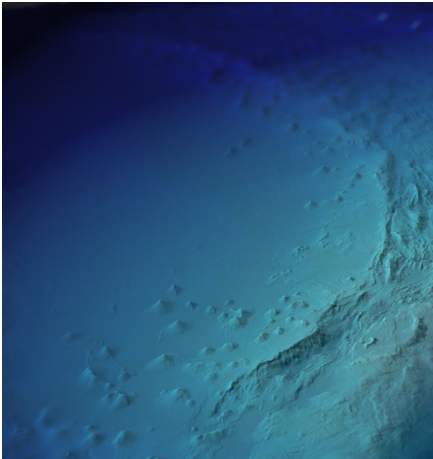
Dimensions of the submarine: 4.6 m long, 1.9 m wide, 3.7m high. The passenger sphere is less than 2m in diameter. Just enough to squeeze a fit, alert and focused explorer into. Compare with a Ford Fiesta

Richard's sub 4.6 m long, 1.9 m wide, 3.7m high,

Ford Fiesta 3.9 m long 1.7m wide 1.4m high



So here it is. Announcing the cinquain.



Just enough space to squeeze some fit, alert and focused thoughts into 5 lines, that's all. Each line is ruled by syllables:

2
4
6
8
2

That's the small space you have to venture to thoughts and experiences that can be as large, as wide, as exotic and as wonderful as a unique place on earth.

There is scope for originality within the cinquain form. There's the simplest kind: one sentence consisting of the syllable-to-line formula e.g.

**Today
I think I'll write
something to make you think
of how our English words can work
and play.**

Slightly more demanding (and usually even more interesting) the two sentence version – put a full stop after any line as well as the last e.g. 2 4. 6 8 2. (or 2 4 6. 8 2. or 2 4 6 8. 2.)

**I like
pasta, pizza,
gazpacho, tortilla,
spaghetti bolognese.
With chips.**

Even more demanding (and usually even more interesting) is the three sentence structure – an introduction, a development and a conclusion. e.g.

**I saw
my reflection
in the mirror today.
My mother's face gazed back at me.
Oh no...**

If that's not demanding enough, try some rhyme.

**They say
you're what you eat.
This means, from toe to head
I'm burger, chips and white fried bread.
No weigh...**

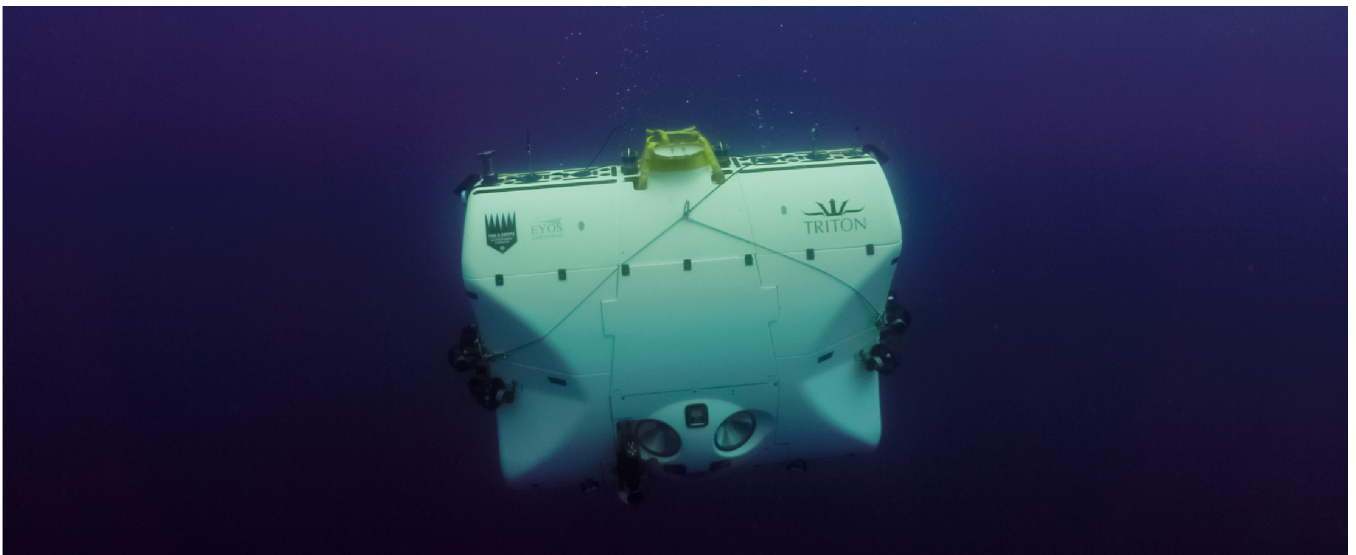
Other samples:

**When you
have girdled Earth,
poled ends and paced globe's girth,
try settling down, do rest and sleep?
No, deep!**

**What drives
a man to test
himself in deep and dark?
The need to make a name and mark?**

Or else...

**Below
the waves, the air,
the light, what's safe and warm,
where few but unseen life forms live:
Richard!**



You need to submit your cinquain (or cinquains) to venturetothedeep@gmail.com by 19th February with your name, age, school and contact email. NATE and Venture Thinking will select the best but ALL will go down with Richard and he will read a selection from them, with the writer's name, from the ocean floor. Your creativity will reach depths that no-one else has reached. NATE will publish a selection of the best in its Newsletter and on its website.

So, decide how ambitious your cinquain structure will be. Start with the easy one, then get more ambitious. Ideally, your cinquain will be about exploring, discovering, travelling, taking risks, being an expert or the state of the planet and its oceans. It's up to you - you're the pilot of this verse vehicle!

Peter Thomas (NATE) Heather MacRae (Venture Thinking)