Word palindromes are very difficult to create, much more rigorous than the various sonnet patterns, and perhaps more demanding than any other literary form. Several systematic rules have, however, aided me in word palindrome construction:

1) Use English -- it is less inflected than languages such as Latin or Greek, and much more syntactically ordered than many other languages. Since semantic content is so often closely tied to word order, English accommodates thought reversals with syntax reversals without the use of heavy inflections.

2) Look for cyclical subjects -- some Greek and Roman myths have very cyclic ideas which lend themselves to palindromic constructions.

3) Pare away unnecessary parts of speech -- eliminate words like articles, adjectives, and adverbs because of their modifying properties which make them more dependent than independent.

4) Use prepositions (and some verbs) as hinges -- for example, 'light to dark' pivots to 'dark to light' and 'Hecate changes earth' pivots to 'earth changes Hecate'.

5) To make sure the palindrome meshes, work forward and backward simultaneously.

I find great satisfaction in writing longer and longer palindromes in English, especially ones which reverse in both syntax and semantic content.

**SISYPHUS**

( forever, forever
peak to peak
valley to valley,
back rocks back rocks
roll roll
to condemned to condemned
Sisyphus, Sisyphus)
ORPHEUS

Eurydice lost, Orpheus,
earth to underworld traveling,
found her at looking
by Pluto enthroned.
To vow his breaking heart
her return to himself,
down went he.

He went down himself
to return her heart,
breaking his vow to enthroned Pluto
by looking at her.
Found traveling
underworld to earth,
Orpheus lost Eurydice.

LABYRINTH

Light to dark, in winding thread out

Bold, Maze through unpuzzled, Theseus
met challenge
before, had he feared?
Saw Theseus unpuzzled through maze.

Saw out thread winding in, dark to light.
PROMETHEUS

Prometheus, bound to give help
to then humans few,
brought fire that raged,
reasoning beyond Zeus.

Zeus, beyond reasoning,
raged that, fire brought,
few humans then to help
give to bound Prometheus.

ICARUS

alas,
sun to sun to
wax-winged winged-wax,
bird-downed, downed-bird
Icarus, Icarus.