

## **The Sonnet:**

### **Italian Sonnet-> Francesco Petrarch**

**two parts: the octave (first 8 lines) and the sestet (last 6)  
theme of love, typically unrequited or love from afar**

**English Sonnet -> Shakespearean Sonnet  
200 years later**

**Spenserian-> Edmund Spenser/ Rhyme scheme**

**a b a b b c b c c d c d e e**

### **Modern Sonnet**

**complex, sophisticated poem  
moved beyond traditional themes of love and beauty**

## The Italian Sonnet:

- 14 lines
- rhyme scheme
- iambic pentameter
- 2 parts
- Part 1: presentation of situation, question, or problem
- Part 2: speaker comments on or resolves problem/questions

## Rhyme Scheme:

a  
b  
b  
a  
a  
b  
b  
a

**Octet-  
=8  
lines**

c  
d  
c  
d  
c  
d

**c  
d  
e  
c  
d  
e**

c  
d  
e  
d  
c  
e

**Cestet=  
6 lines**

## Things to know about Shakespearean Sonnets:

English (or Shakespearean) Sonnets all contain:

- 14 lines
- rhyme scheme
- iambic pentameter
- 3 parts: the problem/question, the turn, the answer

### Rhyme Scheme:

a	c	e	g
b	d	f	g
a	c	e	
b	d	f	

## **Iambic pentameter:**

Metrical line of verse in which rhythm is measured in groups of syllables called feet.

Iamb = unstressed syllable followed by stressed

pentameter = 5 feet

EXAMPLE-

**Two house/holds both/ alike /in dig/nity**

## **Rhyme Scheme Labeling Practice...**

## Rhyme Scheme Labeling Practice

- 1 Two households, both alike in dignity, \_\_\_\_
- 2 In fair Verona, where we lay our scene, \_\_\_\_
- 3 From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, \_\_\_\_
- 4 Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean. \_\_\_\_
- 5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes \_\_\_\_
- 6 A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; \_\_\_\_
- 7 Whose misadventured piteous overthrows \_\_\_\_
- 8 Do with their death bury their parents' strife. \_\_\_\_
- 9 The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love, \_\_\_\_
- 10 And the continuance of their parents' rage, \_\_\_\_
- 11 Which, but their children's end, nought could remove, \_\_\_\_
- 12 Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage; \_\_\_\_
- 13 The which if you with patient ears attend, \_\_\_\_
- 14 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend. \_\_\_\_

Sonnet Type: \_\_\_\_\_

### Rhyme Scheme Labeling Practice

1. When I consider how my light is spent\_\_\_\_
2. Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,\_\_\_\_
3. And that one talent which is death to hide, \_\_\_\_
4. Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent\_\_\_\_
5. To serve therewith my Maker, and present\_\_\_\_
6. My true account, lest he returning chide; \_\_\_\_
7. "Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?" \_\_\_\_
8. I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent \_\_\_\_
9. That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need\_\_\_\_
10. Either man's work or his own gifts; who best\_\_\_\_
11. Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state\_\_\_\_
12. Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed \_\_\_\_
13. And post o'er land and ocean without rest; \_\_\_\_
14. They also serve who only stand and wait." \_\_\_\_

Sonnet Type:\_\_\_\_\_

## **Iambic Pentameter Review**

**We will perform in measure, time and place:**

**Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,**

**If music be the food of love, play on;**

**Can you come over here to eat tonight?**

**Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?**



**Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit  
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste  
Brought death into the World, and all our woe,  
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,  
That shepherd who first taught the chosen seed**

# **Sonnet Explication (Analysis)**

**THE SETUP...**

**1. Number Lines**

**2. Label rhyme scheme (in order to identify sonnet type)**

SONNET XXIX

- 1 When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 I all alone beweep my outcast state \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 And look upon myself and curse my fate, \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Wishing me like to one more rich in hope, \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd, \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Desiring this man's art and that man's scope, \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 With what I most enjoy contented least; \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising, \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Haply I think on thee, and then my state, \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Like to the lark at break of day arising \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate; \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 That then I scorn to change my state with kings. \_\_\_\_\_

SONNET XXIX (29)

Part 1:  
A question  
and tentative  
answers

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone bewep my outcast state  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries  
And look upon myself and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;

Part 2:  
The turn

Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;

Part 3:  
A final answer

For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.