

Sonnets Graphic Organizer and Notes

What is a sonnet?

- ◆ A sonnet is a fourteen line poem which has an end-rhyme scheme of *abab/cdcd/efef/gg*. Also, each line has exactly 10 syllables that followed a pattern of unstressed and stressed.

Below is an example of a classic Shakespearean sonnet. We will look at the different components of the sonnet to prepare you to write your own sonnet.

Rhyme Scheme -

- Line 1** - Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? (A)
- Line 2** - Thou art more lovely and more temperate: (B)
- Line 3** - Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, (A)
- Line 4** - And summer's lease hath all too short a date: (B)
- Line 5** - Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines, (C)
- Line 6** - And often is his gold complexion dimm'd; (D)
- Line 7** - And every fair from fair sometime declines, (C)
- Line 8** - By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd; (D)
- Line 9** - But thy eternal summer shall not fade, (E)
- Line 10** - Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest; (F)
- Line 11** - Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade, (E)
- Line 12** - When in eternal lines to time thou growest; (F)
- Line 13** - So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, (G)
- Line 14** - So long lives this, and this gives life to thee. (G)

Notice that day and May are the same end rhyme just like temperate and date.

I have supplied the rhyme scheme at the end of each line for you so that you can see how each one is different.

Iambic Pentameter – two syllables that have a pattern of unstressed and stressed. (stressed means there is emphasis placed on the word in speaking)

x = unstressed syllable

/ = stressed syllable

A pattern of x / in a poem is called a foot.

A sonnet should have five feet which should be equal to ten syllables.

x / x / x / x / x / 10 syllables/five feet
Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

x / x / x / x / x / 10 syllables/five feet
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

x / x / x / x / x / 10 syllables/five feet
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

x / x / x / x / x / 10 syllables/five feet
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

Now you try to label the metric pattern on the stanza below.

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;

It is now your turn to write your own sonnet. Sonnets typically are about a strong emotion good or bad. Often they are about love but you are not limited to that topic.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Line 5

Line 6

Line 7

Line 8

Line 9

Line 10

Line 11

Line 12

Line 13

Line 14
