**Shakespearean Sonnet**

*A sonnet is a 14 line poem in iambic pentameter with three quatrains and a couplet.*

**Form:** three quatrains and a couplet

**Rhyme scheme:** abab, cdcd, efef, gg.

* A **quatrain** is a stanza or poem containing 4 lines of verse.
* A **couplet** is a pair of lines, usually with the same meter and end rhyme, in poetry.
* **Iambic pentameter**  is a ten syllable line, with 5 iambs (a metric foot of 2 syllables used in poetry with the stress on the second syllable. Ex: *But* ***soft****! What* ***light*** *through* ***yon****der* ***win****dow* ***breaks****!*)

**The couplet** plays an important role. Usually, it presents a turn, an epiphany, or a conclusion at the end of the poem. For example, in William Shakespeare’s *Sonnet 130*, the first twelve lines compare the speaker’s mistress with nature in a harsh light. But the concluding couplet takes the poem in a surprising direction:

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;   
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;   
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.

I have seen roses damasked, red and white,   
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;   
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.

I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;   
I grant I never saw a goddess go;   
My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.

And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare.

Sonnet Outline

Remember:

* 10 syllables per line
* 14 lines
* End-rhyme pattern of: abab, cdcd, efef, gg

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