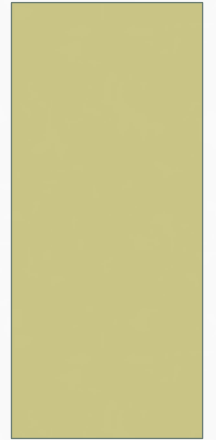


# WRITING A SONNET

HONORS 9



# WHAT IS A SONNET?

- A sonnet is **a fourteen-line poem in iambic pentameter.**

Iambic what?????



# IAMBIC PENTAMETER

- Iambic Pentameter is **the rhythm and meter in which poets and playwrights wrote in Elizabethan England.** It is a meter that Shakespeare uses.



# HEARTBEAT

- Quite simply, it sounds like this:

deeDUM, deeDUM, deeDUM,  
deeDUM,deeDUM

- It consists of **a line of five iambic feet, ten syllables with five unstressed and five stressed syllables.**
- It is the first and last sound we ever hear, it is the rhythm of the human heart beat.



# PENTAMETER?

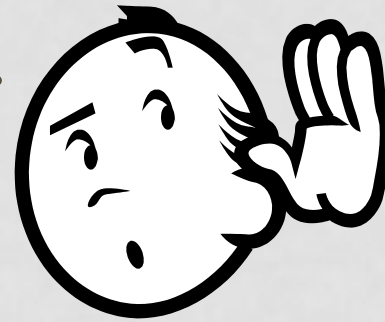
- Well an 'iamb' is 'dee Dum' – it is the heart beat.
- Penta is a Greek number prefix meaning **5**.
- Meter refers to the pattern (structure)

**So, there are five iambs per line!**

(Iambic penta meter )

# WHY WRITE IN IAMBIC PENTAMETER?

- It is percussive and attractive to the ear and has an effect on the listener's central nervous system.



- An Example of Pentameter from Shakespeare: but SOFT what LIGHT through YONder WINdow BREAKS

# ANALYZING STRUCTURE: SYLLABLES

What is a ***syllable***?

- A syllable is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds.
- For example, the word water is composed of two syllables: **wa** and **ter**.
- A syllable is typically made up of a *syllable nucleus* (**most often a vowel**) with optional initial and final margins (**typically, consonants**).

# SYLLABLES

- Syllables are often considered the phonological "building blocks" of words. They can influence the rhythm of a language, its poetic meter, and its stress patterns.

**How many syllables are in (please raise your hand if you know) :**

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious



# YOU TRY



You put the wrong emPHAsis on the wrong syLLABle!

Copy the sentence below on your notes beside “YOU TRY” **and** write the number of syllables beside the last quotation mark:

**“But soft, what light through yonder window breaks.”**



# STRESSED VS. UNSTRESSED



- Looking at the same sentence that you just wrote down, please underline the ***stressed*** words/syllables.
- Think of the “heartbeat” dee**DUM**  
(**DUM**=stressed)

**“But soft, what light through yonder window breaks.”**

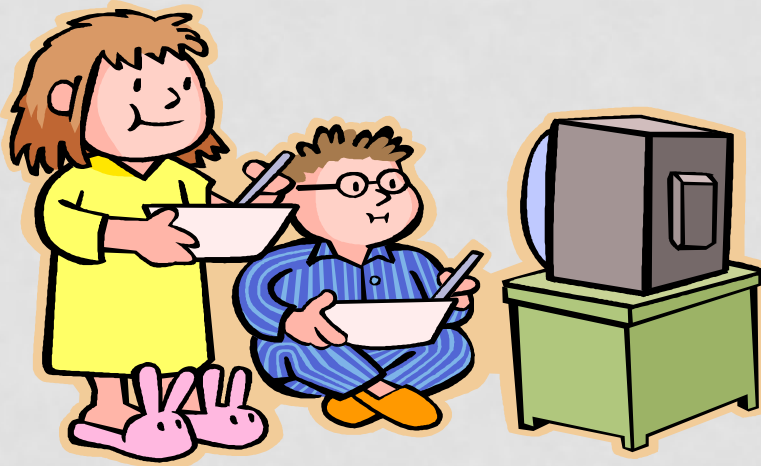
# RHYTHM?

Underneath your underlined sentence write the *rhythmic pattern* that this line was written in:

**“But soft, what light through yonder window breaks.”**

# LET'S SOLIDIFY THIS INFORMATION WITH A CLIP!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0aAWuUX5jU>

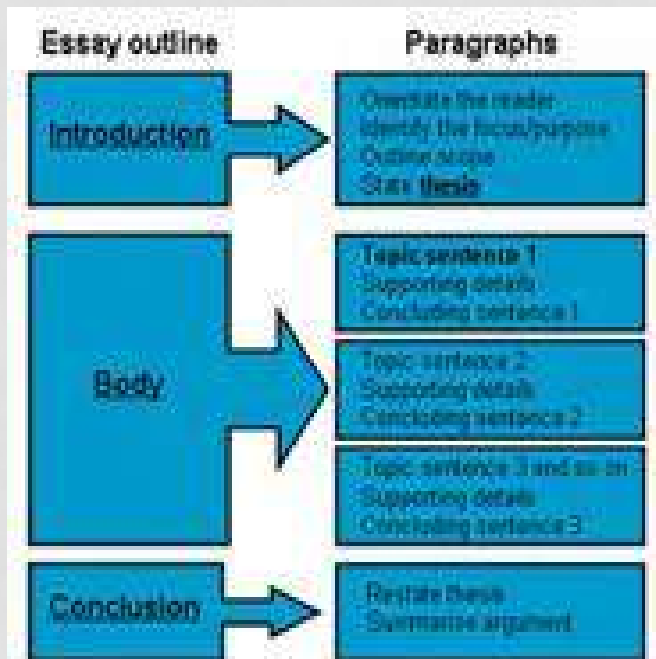


# POETIC STRUCTURE

Along with this rhythmic pattern, sonnets also follow:

- a specific poetic structure
- a rhyming pattern

## Structure



## Rhyming

With what I gave up to get was  
**bittersweet**

It was like winning a huge **meet**

Ironic 'cause I **think**

I'm getting so huge I need a **shrink**

I'm beginning to lose **sleep:**

one sheep, two **sheep**

Going cucko and cuckier as Kool

**Keith**

But I'm actually weirder than you

**think**

Cause I'm...

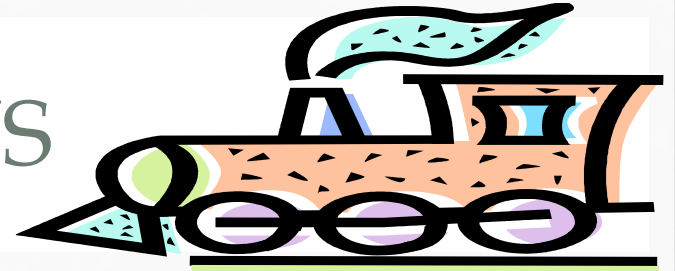
# RHYMING PATTERNS

- The Shakespearean sonnet has **three quatrains** followed by a **couplet**, the scheme being: *abab cdcd efef gg*.

Huh?



# QUATRAINS



- Quatrains are ***four line stanzas*** of any kind
- I have divided the following sonnet into the three quatrains.  
(You will also see the rhyming pattern marked out for you)

# SONNET 116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds (a)  
Admit impediments. Love is not love (b)  
Which alters when it alteration finds,(a)  
Or bends with the remover to remove:(b)  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,(c)  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;(d)  
It is the star to every wandering bark,(c)  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be  
taken.(d)  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks(e)  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;(f)  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,(e)  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.(f)  
If this be error and upon me proved,(g)  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.(g)



# TRANSLATION

Let me not declare any reasons why two  
True-minded people should not be married. Love is not love  
Which changes when it finds a change in circumstances,  
Or bends from its firm stand even when a lover is unfaithful:  
Oh no! it is a lighthouse  
That sees storms but it never shaken;  
Love is the guiding north star to every lost ship,  
Whose value cannot be calculated, although its altitude can  
be measured.  
Love is not at the mercy of Time, though physical beauty  
Comes within the compass of his sickle.  
Love does not alter with hours and weeks,  
But, rather, it endures until the last day of life.  
If I am proved wrong about these thoughts on love  
Then I recant all that I have written, and no man has ever  
[truly] loved.

# A BIT MORE ON SONNETS TO IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS

Shakespeare is not the only poet that gained fame for writing sonnets...

- Sonnets follow a predetermined rhyme scheme; the rhyme pattern determines if the sonnet is

**Petrarchan (Italian)**, or **Shakespearean**.

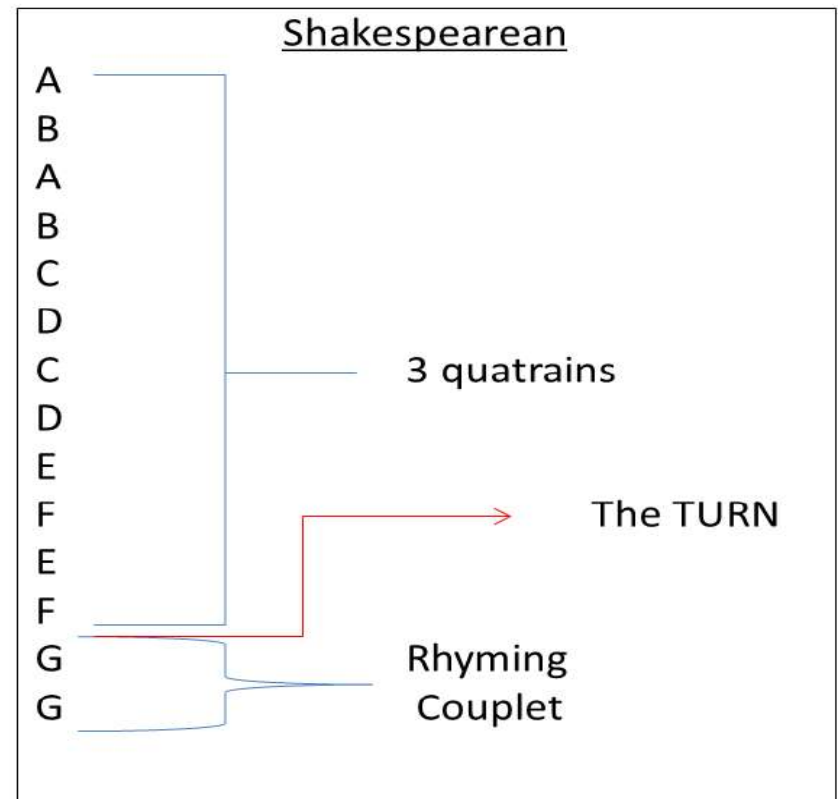
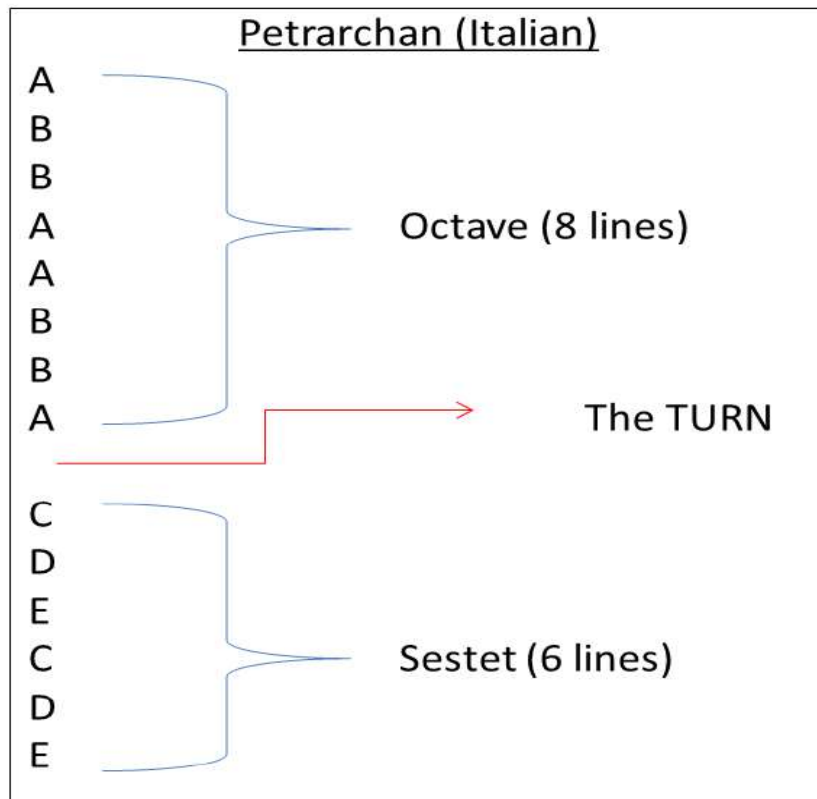
# HISTORY OF THE SONNET

- The sonnet began in Italy, where the poet **Francesco Petrarch** first established it as a serious form of poetry.
- Petrarch wrote a large collection of sonnets addressed to a young woman named Laura he saw one afternoon at church.
- She was not interested, but he didn't let that stop him, and proceeded to publish some **260 sonnets** about her—followed by another hundred or so after her death. Petrarch is, quite possibly, the first recorded literary stalker.



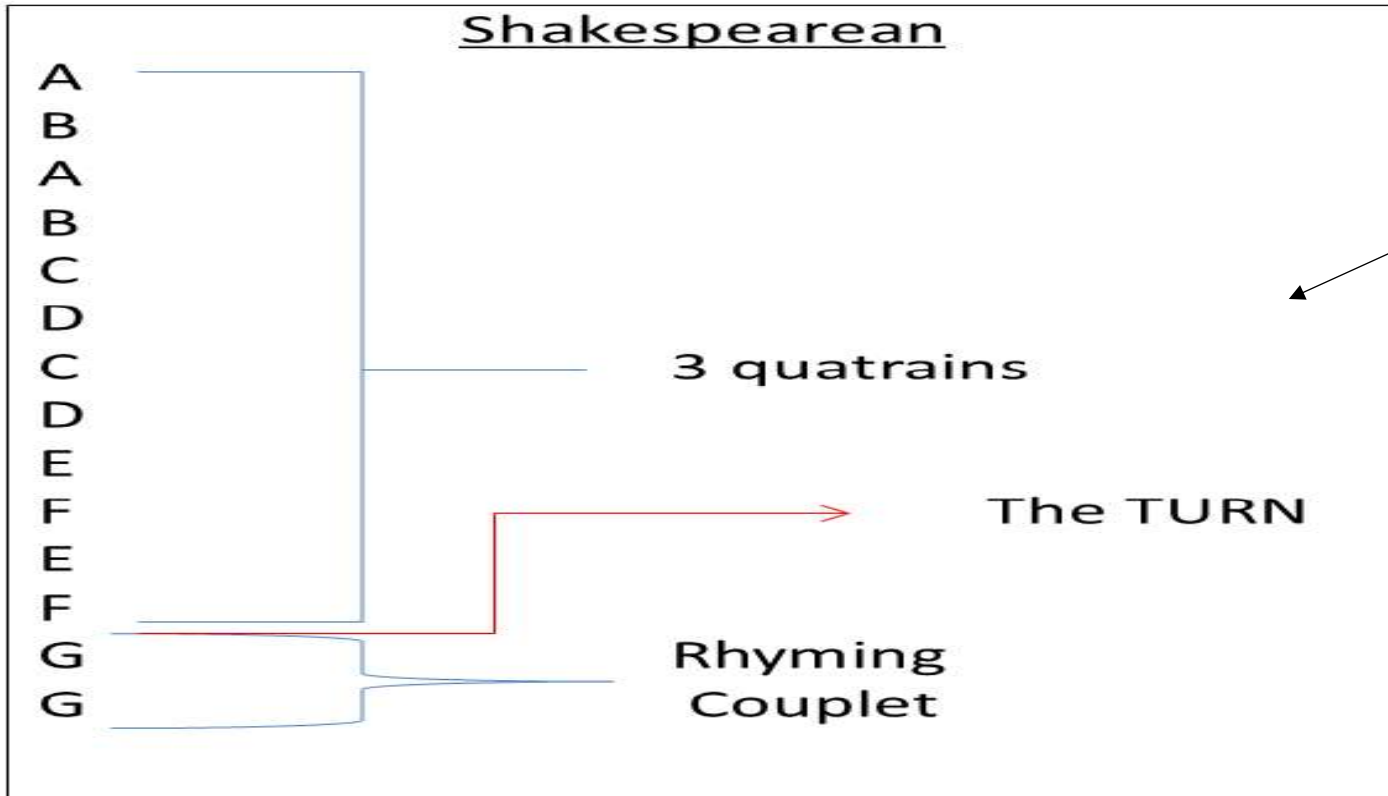
# THE TWO MAJOR SONNET FORMS:

## The two major sonnet forms:



# SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET FORM FOR NOTES

## sonnet forms:



Add this to your notes under "Shakespearean Sonnet Form"

# THE TURN

- A sonnet's *turn* is **the point in the sonnet where the poet changes perspective or alters his/her approach to description.**
- This often results in a sonnet following a “position-contrasting position” type of structure, or occasionally a “change of heart” in the poet at the end of the verse.



# WE WILL FOCUS ON THE SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET:

## *PROBLEM AND SOLUTION*

- Shakespearean Sonnet Theme Pattern:

1. The **first quatrain** introduces the subject (the speaker's loneliness and depression).



2. The **second quatrain** develops the subject further and even introduces more conflict (the speaker gets super-elaborate about why he feels so down in the dumps).



# *PROBLEM AND SOLUTION*

3. The **third quatrain** offers a solution to the speaker's problem (he remembers that someone out there really loves him and it's enough to bring him out of his depression).



4. Finally, the **couplet** offers up a pretty strong conclusion and solution to the original problem (as long as the speaker is loved, it doesn't matter how screwed up the rest of his life is).



# SUMMARY OF ALL OF THIS IN A **CLIP!**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN3ypMK9lyg>

