

Sonnet Worksheet

The sonnet is a fourteen-line lyric poem in predominantly iambic pentameter, with a formal rhyme scheme. Although there can be considerable variation in rhyme scheme, most English sonnets are written in either the Italian (Petrarchan) style or the English (Shakespearean) style. A third sonnet form, the Spenserian sonnet, is also well-known, but far less commonly used than either the Petrarchan or the Shakespearean sonnet.

Students may want to use Shakespearean words like: thee (you), thou (your), thy (your), doth (does), hath (has), whilst (while), art (are), 'tis (it is), 'twas (it was), ye (you).

You may encourage the students to start with a question on the first line, as Shakespeare often does.

Give the students a chart similar to the one below. In each square, write only **one syllable!**

Line #										Rhyme Pattern
1										A
2										B
3										A
4										B
5										C
6										D
7										C
8										D
9										E
10										F
11										E
12										F
13										G
14										G