

SONNET

History

W/ Note Taker & Quiz!

Grades 8 - 12

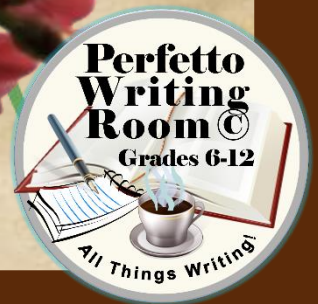
Part ONE -

LEARN



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The History of the Sonnet

- A 14-line poem
- The form originated in Italy.
- The invention of the sonnet is attributed to Giacomo Da Lentini.

- The sonnet has a rhyme scheme that varies depending on the type of sonnet.
- The sonnet body is made up of parts such as: octet; sestet; volta; couplings.

What Year Is it, and WHAT HAPPENS in Italy?




Though **Giacomo Da Lentini** is attributed with inventing the form in the 13th century (1200s),

It is **Francesco Petrarch** who popularized and elevated the sonnet form in the 1300s. Petrarch lived from 1307-1374

Petrarch relied upon classical symbols and the subject of courtly love in the sonnet. These become known as the Petrarchan Conventions.

Petrarch's Contributions – The Petrarchan Conventions

1. **Love is horribly painful**, and results in suffering!
2. **An idealized love. The idealized love is:** young and beautiful; unattainable/already spoken for; pure and virtuous; refuses the speaker in a cruel or cold way.
3. Love occurs **“at first sight.”**
4. Love is *equal* to a **religious experience**, which makes him a more noble, better human being.
5. References **religious symbols**, and **classical gods**.
6. Poetry lives forever, and immortalizes the loved person.



Petrarch is known for his “LAURA” poems

English Form Versus the Italian Form

- Like the Italian, the English form may use **religious imagery, symbols, and terms.**

- It also relies on classical terms, references or allusions to Greek gods.

- BOTH English and Italian work to elevate the woman, the writer, the poem itself, and the seriousness of the writer's ardor (love).

- UNLIKE the Italian form, The English form differs in the following ways:

- Rhyme Scheme
- Meter

- The changes were most likely done to improve how the sonnet worked in a new language.

The Sonnet Arrives to Merry Old England – Hurrah!

- 16th century (1500s), The Sonnet Arrives in England

- Two men, credited with popularizing and slightly *changing* the sonnet for England and its language:

- Henry Howard (The Earl of Surrey), and Sir Thomas Wyatt

Sir Thomas Wyatt and The Earl of Surrey Start a Sonnet Frenzy!!

- Though the men above introduced the Petrarchan or Italian Sonnet, many writers loved and championed the sonnet form. Just some are:
- Edmund Spenser, Philip Sidney and his niece Mary Wroth, and of course. . .
- William Shakespeare!
(1564-1616)



How Many Sonnet Forms Are There?

* THREE

- The Italian or Petrarchan
- The English or Shakespearian
- And the Spenserian – named after Edmund Spenser!

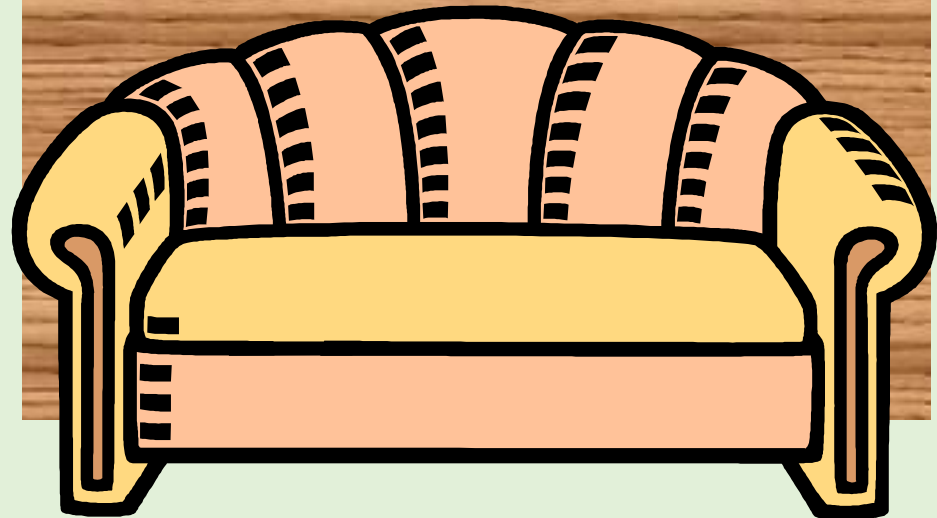
Standard Italian
or Petrarchan Rhyme
Scheme is:
abba, abba

Standard English or
Shakespearian Rhyme Scheme
a b a b, c d c d, e f e f, g g

Standard English or
Spenserian Rhyme Scheme
a b a b, b c b c, c d c d, e e

Shakespeare, the Rock Star of Sonnets

- Like Petrarch before him, and Spenser, Shakespeare was so influential he has a sonnet named after him!
- We have counted up to 154 sonnets attributed to Shakespeare.
- Shakespeare used Petrarch's conventions but also questioned and surpassed them.



Shakespeare Reached the Top by Going *Further* Than Anyone Else



- In “Sonnet 130” he honors an *ordinary woman* (“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun.”)
- The “Dark Lady,” sonnets (#s 127-152) feature an UN-idealized women, *neither* young, nor pure.
- He wrote sonnets about a male youth - not a typical subject, again showing his willingness to write ***outside*** the originally strict Petrarchan sonnet.

And the Road Continues. . .

- Shakespeare was unrivalled in his ability.
- To this day masters of writing create in the sonnet form.
- Some famous British and Irish sonneteers include Milton, John Donne, W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Wordsworth Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Thomas Hardy and W. B. Yeats.

- American contributors to the form include: Robert Frost and Edna St. Vincent Millay.
- Other American writers of sonnets include James Weldon Johnson, Gwendolyn Brooks, Marilyn Nelson, Derek Walcott, Marilyn Nelson, and more.
- Sonnets are written in English speaking countries everywhere to this day.

How Do I Write and STUDY a Sonnet?

- Read Shakespeare's poems
- Master the meter and rhyme schemes of each type of sonnet. It is EASY once you learn. . .
- Can you name at least one thing you learned today?
- Assessment to follow.



**Can you discuss one thing you learned today?
Use Your Note Taker (teacher discretion).**

Save YOUR NOTE TAKER - Assessment to follow

**The End! Thank You
for Visiting!**

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WANT TO LEARN MORE?



If you want students to learn MORE about METER and RHYME SCHEME, read Shakespearian sonnets, and begin to differentiate and analyze the constituent parts, MOVE ON TO:

[The Sonnet: Meter and Structure with Shakespeare – Part TWO](#)

It also comes with assessment, activities, and separate printer friendly versions.

CLICK on
Resource ICON,
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