

The Shakespearean Sonnet

English

Lesson 1 of 'Sonnet 18' by William Shakespeare

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Copy out and complete the sentences below by filling in the gaps

- 1) A s_____ has 14 l_____ of 10 s_____ each.
- 2) Sonnets originated in the 13th c_____.
- 3) Two of the most well-k_____ s_____ writers were Petrarch and S_____.



What rhyme scheme does a Shakespearean Sonnet follow?

Option 1

It has no rhyme scheme.

Option 3

It uses an ABAB rhyme scheme with a romantic couplet at the end.

Option 2

It uses heroic couplets throughout.

Option 4

It uses an ABAB rhyme scheme throughout.



Copy out the lines below and annotate the syllables (10) and iambs (pairs of syllables - 5) on the lines below using a 1 & 2 to represent the syllables, and a / to split the iambs.

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;



True or false?

- a) A Shakespearean sonnet has 14 lines.
- b) A Shakespearean sonnet uses rhyming couplets throughout.
- c) A Shakespearean sonnet is written in free verse with a chaotic metre.
- d) A Shakespearean sonnet is written in Iambic Pentameter.



True or false?

- a) Shakespeare lived in the 15th & 16th century.
- b) Shakespeare was a famous poet and playwright.
- c) Shakespeare wrote sonnets addressed to both a young man and a 'dark lady'.
- d) Shakespeare wrote only 38 sonnets in his 52 year life.



Shakespearean Sonnet

Pause the video and circle which of the elements below are aspects of a Shakespearean Sonnet.

Iambic
Pentameter

Has 12
lines

Theme of
love

AABB Rhyme
Scheme

Iambic
Pentameter

Theme of
death

Iambic
Tetrameter

ABAB Rhyme
Scheme

Has 14
lines

Ends with a
rhyming couplet

