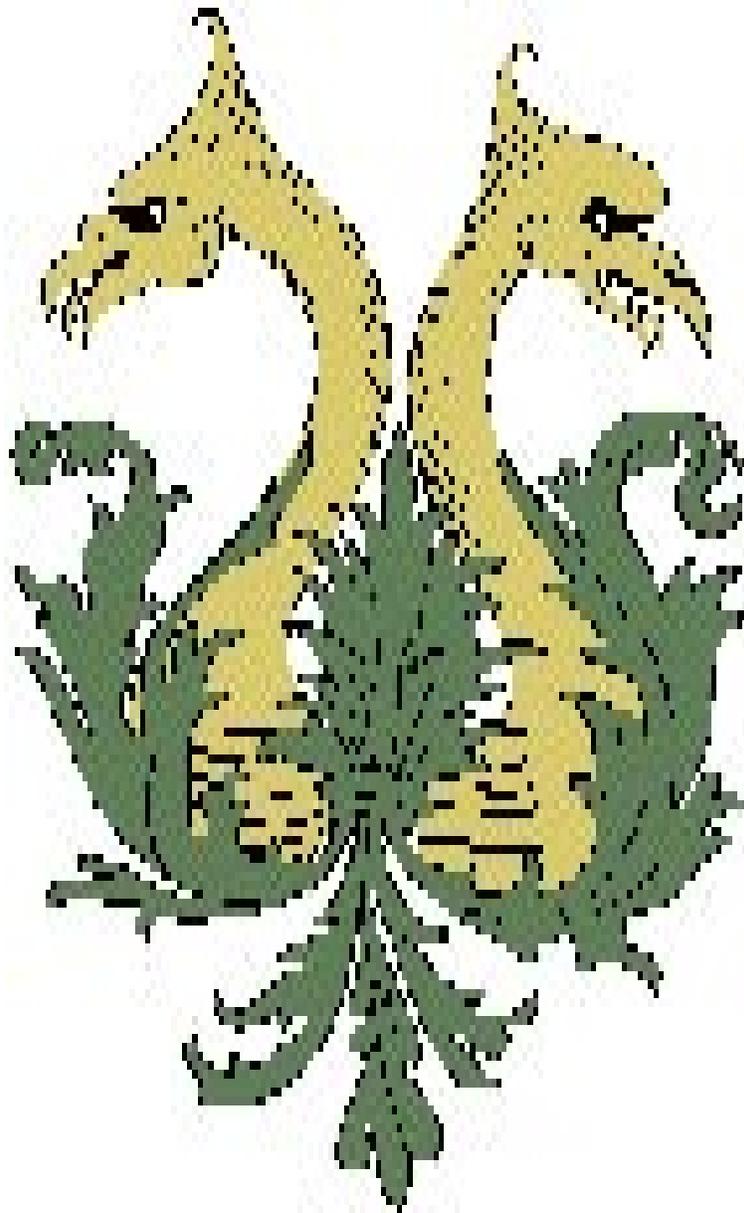


SHAKESPEARE  
AND THE

SONNET



## Shakespeare & Sonnets

When we read a play by Shakespeare what we are generally reading is not prose, but poetry. Shakespeare writes using a form of poetry that is called *iambic pentameter*. It is called iambic pentameter because each individual line is composed of five (*pent*) feet of iambic meter.

A single line of iambic pentameter follows the following rhythm or pattern:

*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun*

The number of feet in the line is simply the number of syllables divided in half (10 syllables = 5 feet; therefore pentameter).

*My mistress' eyes | are nothing like | the sun*

One *iambic foot* consists of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, as in unìte, repeàt, or insìst. Most English verse naturally falls into this pattern.

*My mìstress' èyes | are nòthing like | the sùn*



# Shakespeare & Sonnets

Shakespeare is famous for both the plays he wrote and the sonnets that he wrote while the theatres were closed in London during the plague years.

- A sonnet is simply a:
- A 14-line poem
  - iambic pentameter rhythm
  - intricate rhyme scheme
  - pattern of development

## Shakespeare Sonnet 138

12 lines of 3 quatrains

When my love swears that she is made of truth,	A
I do believe her, though I know she lies,	B
That she might think me some untutored youth,	A
Unlearned in the world's false subtleties.	B
Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young,	C
Although she knows my days are past the best,	D
Simply I credit her false-speaking tongue:	C
On both sides thus is simple truth suppressed.	D
But wherefore says she not she is unjust?	E
And wherefore say not I that I am old?	F
Oh, love's best habits is in seeming trust,	E
And age in love loves not to have years told.	F
Therefore I lie with her and she with me,	G
And in our faults by lies we flattered be.	G

Rhyming  
Couplet

## Shakespeare & Sonnets

### Shakespeare Sonnet 138

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I do believe her, though I know she lies,  
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Oh, love's best habits is in seeming trust,  
And age in love loves not to have years told.  
Therefore I lie with her and she with me,  
And in our faults by lies we flattered be.

### Shakespeare Sonnet 130

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.

# Shakespeare & Sonnets

Shakespeare wrote over one hundred sonnets while the theatres were closed in London. The majority of them describe a woman and the others describe a person (possibly a boy, or black woman).

Your assignment is to create your own Shakespearean sonnet that describes a person (of either sex). You may use material taken from your He/She poem or start all over again).

Also include in your poem:  
moron  
matopeia

- A metaphor
- An oxymoron
- use of imagery
- A simile
- An onomatopoeia

Remember that a simile is a comparison between two things like or as (a word of *likening*):

*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun*

A metaphor is when we omit the word of comparison but imply a likeness (one thing is described in the place of another):

*That hog has guzzled all the champagne.*

You will be assessed on:

<b>Total</b>	
<b>out</b>	• Shakespeare rhyme scheme
<b>of</b>	• Iambic pentameter
<b>40</b>	• Description of the person
<b>Marks</b>	