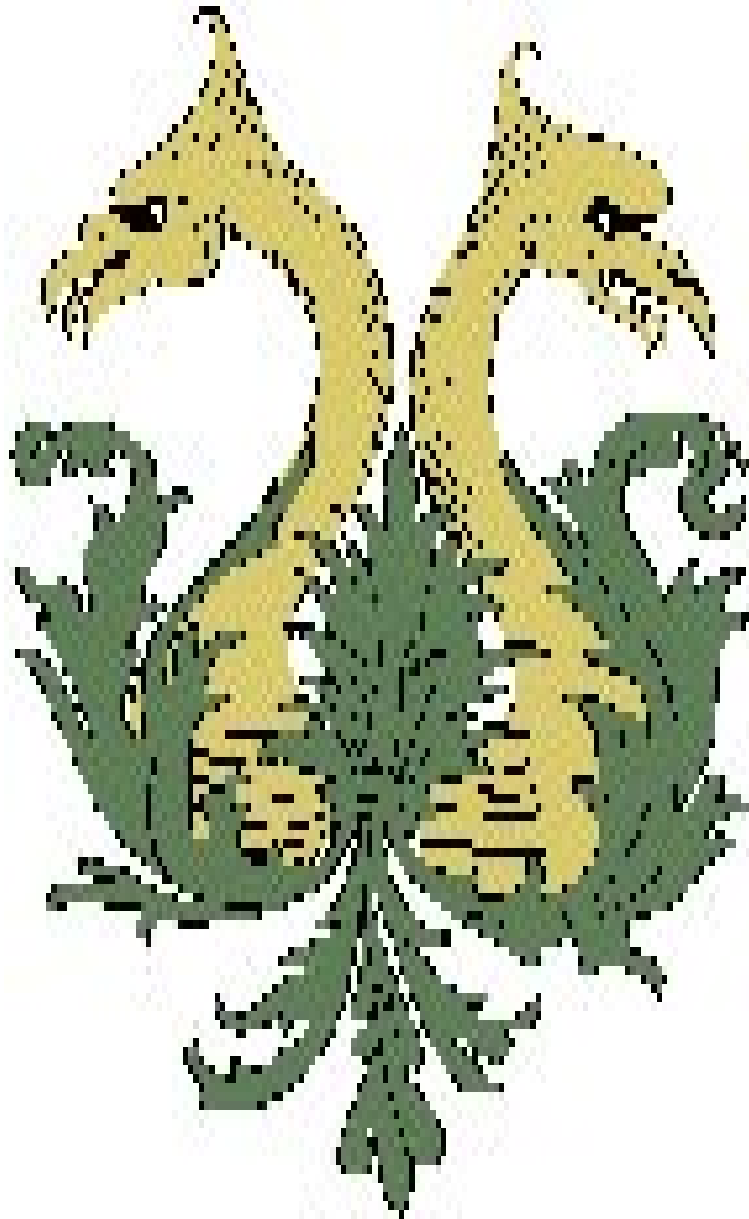


# SHAKESPEARE AND THE SONNET



## 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

When my love swears that she is made of truth,  
I do believe her, though I know she lies,  
That she might think me some untutored youth,  
Unlearned in the world's false subtleties.  
Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young,  
Although she knows my days are past the best,  
Simply I credit her false-speaking tongue:  
On both sides thus is simple truth suppressed.  
But wherefore says she not she is unjust?  
And wherefore say not I that I am old?  
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>of</b>	• Shakespeare rhyme scheme
<b>40</b>	• Iambic pentameter
<b>Marks</b>	• Description of the person