

# Sonnets

# Petrarchan Sonnets (Italian Sonnets)

- **Two parts:**
  - The Octave = two quatrains = 8 lines
    - Octopus
  - The Sestet = 6 lines
  - The ninth line (9<sup>th</sup>) presents the twist or turn in the poem.



# Petrarchan Sonnets cont.

- Rhyme Scheme
  - ABBA ABBA
    - No connection to the band ABBA
  - CDCDCD or CDECDE



# Spenserian Sonnet

- Named after Edmund Spenser
  - Looks kind of like Chuck Norris
- 14 lines
- No real requirements based on theme
- Rhyme Scheme...
  - ABAB BCBC CDCD EE



# Modern Sonnets

- Once free verse was introduced, sonnets somewhat disappeared from the poetry universe.
- However, some poets still used the form including:
  - Robert Frost
  - E.E. Cummings
  - The Police song,
    - “Does Everyone Stare?”



# Other Lesser Known Sonnets

- **Curtal Sonnets**

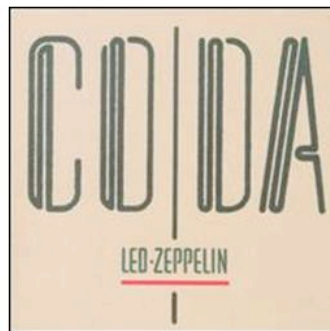
- 10 ½ line poem invented by Gerald Manley Hopkins
- No connections to Johns Hopkins, Anthony Hopkins, Webkinz, Barley Hops, or the hip-hop genre.



# Other Lesser Known Sonnets

- **Caudate Sonnets**

- 14 lines followed by a “coda” in latin meaning “tail” or “conclusion.”
- Led Zeppelin’s 1982 album “CODA” was their last album ever recorded.



# Other Lesser Known Sonnets

- **African Sonnets**

- Also known as “chain or train sonnets”

- **Pushkin Sonnets**

- Created by Alexander Pushkin

- Rhyme scheme of aBaBccDDeFFeGG

- Lower case letters meaning feminine lines

- Upper case letters meaning masculine lines

- It is not known whether or not he was indeed a sexist



# However...

- The academy award for the most popular type of Sonnet goes to...



# William Shakespeare for Shakespearean Sonnets!



# Shakespearean Sonnets

- Also known as English sonnets
- Common Themes include:
  - Love, Beauty, Politics, and Morality
- There are 154 known sonnets written by Shakespeare
  - 2,157 Lines of Poetry

# Shakespearean Sonnets

- Separated into...
  - Three 4 line Stanzas known as Quatrains
    - Four quarters equal a dollar.
  - 1 Couplet at the end
    - Couplet is similar to couple, which is consisted of 2 people.
- Usually 10 syllables per line
- Rhyme Scheme
  - ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
  - 7 rhymes

# Shakespearean Sonnets

- **Usually written in Iambic Pentameter**

- Iambic meaning...

- Unstressed/ stressed
- “da DUM / da DUM / da DUM / da DUM / da DUM”



- Not like Rhianna’s “Disturbia”
- Like a heartbeat... ba boom, ba boom, ba boom

- Pentameter meaning...

- Five meters per line
  - Pentagon has 5 sides
  - 1 meter = 2 syllables



# Shakespearean Sonnets

- **First Two Quatrains**
  - **Presents Idea, Theme, or Story**
- **Last Quatrain**
  - **Provides Twist or Turn**
- **Rhyming Couplet**
  - **Summarizes the theme of the poem or introduces a fresh new look at the theme**



## **Rollercoaster ride metaphor...**

- 1. You see the coaster, get opinions and/or ideas of how it will feel when you ride it.**
- 2. You actually go on the coaster and you feel the twists and turns throughout.**
- 3. You summarize your experience on the coaster.**

# Sonnet XVIII

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.