

HOW TO WRITE A SONNET

Shakespearean Sonnet Requirements:

- **MUST** be 14 Lines.
- **MUST** have 3 Quatrains (set of 4 lines) and 1 Couplet (2 lines)
- **MUST** follow the rhyme scheme ABABDCDEFEFGG
- **MUST** be about love (or related subjects: envy, heartbreak, friendship, family, passions, favorite things)
- **EXTRA CREDIT:** Must be in IAMBIC PENTAMETER (10 syllables per line)

-Your First Stanza should introduce the poem, explain a problem or situation, introduce what you'll be talking about. (Your **First Stanza** should introduce the **SPEAKER** and **AUDIENCE**, explain the **OCCASION** or situation, and make the **SUBJECT** of the poem clear.)

-Your Second and Third Stanza should *INVESTIGATE* the poem... what are the feelings involved? Exploring the story/conflict/situation introduced in the first stanza (Your **Second and Third Stanza** should develop the **tone** of the poem... what are the feelings involved? Convey these feelings using figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification. **EX: "I love you like music needs a beat"**)

-Your Rhyming Couplet at the end should resolve the poem, or provide a dramatic twist to the story. The couplet is probably the most important two lines of the sonnet... so make them good! (Make sure your **PURPOSE** is clear. The couplet is probably the most important two lines of the sonnet... so make them good! THE CLINCHER!)

First Stanza:

A _____
B _____
A _____
B _____

Second Stanza:

C _____
D _____
C _____
D _____

Third Stanza:

E _____
F _____
E _____
F _____

Rhyming Couplet:

G _____
G _____