

The Italian Sonnet:

- 14 lines
- rhyme scheme
- iambic pentameter
- 2 parts
- Part 1: presentation of situation, question, or problem
- Part 2: speaker comments on or resolves problem/questions

Rhyme Scheme:

a
b
b
a
a
b
b
a

**Octet=
8
lines**

c
d
c
d
c
d

**c
d
e
c
d
e**

c
d
e
d
c
e

**Sestet=
6 lines**

Things to know about Shakespearean Sonnets:

English (or Shakespearean) Sonnets all contain:

- 14 lines
- rhyme scheme
- iambic pentameter
- 3 parts: the problem/question, the turn, the answer

Rhyme Scheme:

a	c	e	g
b	d	f	g
a	c	e	
b	d	f	

SONNET XXIX

1 When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
2 I all alone beweep my outcast state
3 And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
4 And look upon myself and curse my fate,
5 Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
6 Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,
7 Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
8 With what I most enjoy contented least;
9 Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
10 Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
11 Like to the lark at break of day arising
12 From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
13 For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
14 That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

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THE SETUP...

SONNET XXIX (29)

Part 1:
A question
and tentative
answers

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweepe my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;

Part 2:
The turn

Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;

Part 3:
A final answer

For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

SONNET XXIX

1 When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes , a
2 I all alone beweep my outcast state b
3 And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries a
4 And look upon myself and curse my fate, b
5 Wishing me like to one more rich in hope, c
6 Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd , d
7 Desiring this man's art and that man's scope , c
8 With what I most enjoy contented least ; d
9 Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising , e
10 Haply I think on thee, and then my state , f
11 Like to the lark at break of day arising e
12 From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate; f
13 For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings g
14 That then I scorn to change my state with kings . g

Rhyme Scheme Labeling Practice

- 1 Two households, both alike in dignity, ____
- 2 In fair Verona, where we lay our scene, ____
- 3 From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, ____
- 4 Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean. ____
- 5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes ____
- 6 A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; ____
- 7 Whose misadventured piteous overthrows ____
- 8 Do with their death bury their parents' strife. ____
- 9 The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love, ____
- 10 And the continuance of their parents' rage, ____
- 11 Which, but their children's end, nought could remove, ____
- 12 Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage; ____
- 13 The which if you with patient ears attend, ____
- 14 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend. ____

Rhyme Scheme Labeling Practice

1. When I consider how my light is spent___
2. Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,___
3. And that one talent which is death to hide, ___
4. Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent___
5. To serve therewith my Maker, and present___
6. My true account, lest he returning chide; ___
7. "Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?" ___
8. I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent ___
9. That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need___
10. Either man's work or his own gifts; who best___
11. Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state___
12. Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed ___
13. And post o'er land and ocean without rest; ___
14. They also serve who only stand and wait." ___

Sonnet 75

What is the Sonnet Type?

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
But came the waves and washed it away:
Again I write it with a second hand,
But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.
Vain man, said she, that doest in vain assay,
A mortal thing so to immortalize,
For I myself shall like to this decay,
And eek my name be wiped out likewise.
Not so, (quod I) let baser things devise
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:
My verse, your virtues rare shall eternize,
And in the heavens write your glorious name.
Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,
Our love shall live, and later life renew.