

SUBJECT: A02 WAYS WITH WORDS
TOPIC: SONNET
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SONNET

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- *sonnet* is derived from the Italian word “sonetto,” which means a “little song” or small lyric.
- A sonnet has 14 lines, and is written in iambic pentameter.
- It has a specific rhyme scheme, and a Volta, or a specific turn.

TYPES OF SONNETS

Sonnets can be categorized into six major types:

1. Italian Sonnet
2. Shakespearean Sonnet
3. Spenserian Sonnet
4. Miltonic Sonnet
5. Terza Rima Sonnet
6. Curtal Sonnet

Italian or Petrarchan Sonnet

- Italian or Petrarchan sonnet was introduced by 14th century Italian poet Francesco Petrarch.
- The rhyme scheme of a Petrarchan sonnet features the first eight lines, called an octave, which rhymes as abba–abba
- The remaining six lines are called a sestet, and might have a range of rhyme schemes. cde- cde or cdc–dcd

Shakespearean Sonnet

- A Shakespearean sonnet consists of fourteen lines, which are broken into three quatrains and a final couplet.
- A Shakespearean sonnet is generally written in [iambic pentameter](#).
- Five metrical feet of two syllables each, the first unstressed and the second stressed
- The rhyme scheme of the Shakespearean sonnet is abab–cdcd–efef–gg
- Shakespearean sonnets place the *volta*, or rhetorical shift, in the final couplet.