

WORKSHEET

Sonnet

Write a sonnet. Your sonnet can be on a topic of your choosing, but it must:

- **Consist of *fourteen lines in iambic pentameter*.** That is, each of the fourteen lines should have ten syllables, with the odd syllables unstressed and the even syllables stressed. For example: “I think that you are staring at my face” or “We wandered on the windy shores awhile.”
- **Have the same *rhyme scheme* as one of the sonnets we have read in this class.** For example, it could have the rhyme scheme of a Shakespearean sonnet like Shakespeare’s Sonnet 116, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds” (ABAB CDCD EFEF GG), a Petrarchan sonnet like Wordsworth’s “The World Is Too Much with Us” (ABBAABBA CDCDCD), or a more unusual rhyme scheme like that of Shelley’s “Ozymandias” (AB AB AC DC ED EF EF). (For the purposes of imitating rhyme schemes, you can use any rhyming fourteen-line iambic pentameter poem we have read in this class.)
- **Have a *volta* (turn), either between the 8th line and 9th line or between the 12th line and 13th line.** An example of each placement: Shakespeare’s Sonnet 146, “Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth,” has a *volta between lines 8 and 9*: the first eight lines ask a series of questions revealing the folly of investing in mortal flesh at the cost of the immortal soul, then the last six lines propose the solution: investing in the immortal soul at the cost of mortal flesh. Shakespeare’s Sonnet 130, “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun,” has a *volta between lines 12 and 13*: the first twelve lines say the mistress is not like the sun, coral, snow, roses, etc., in an apparently critical way, but there is a turn before the final couplet which reveals that the poem’s criticism is aimed at “false” comparisons but the speaker’s mistress is “as rare” as any of these things.