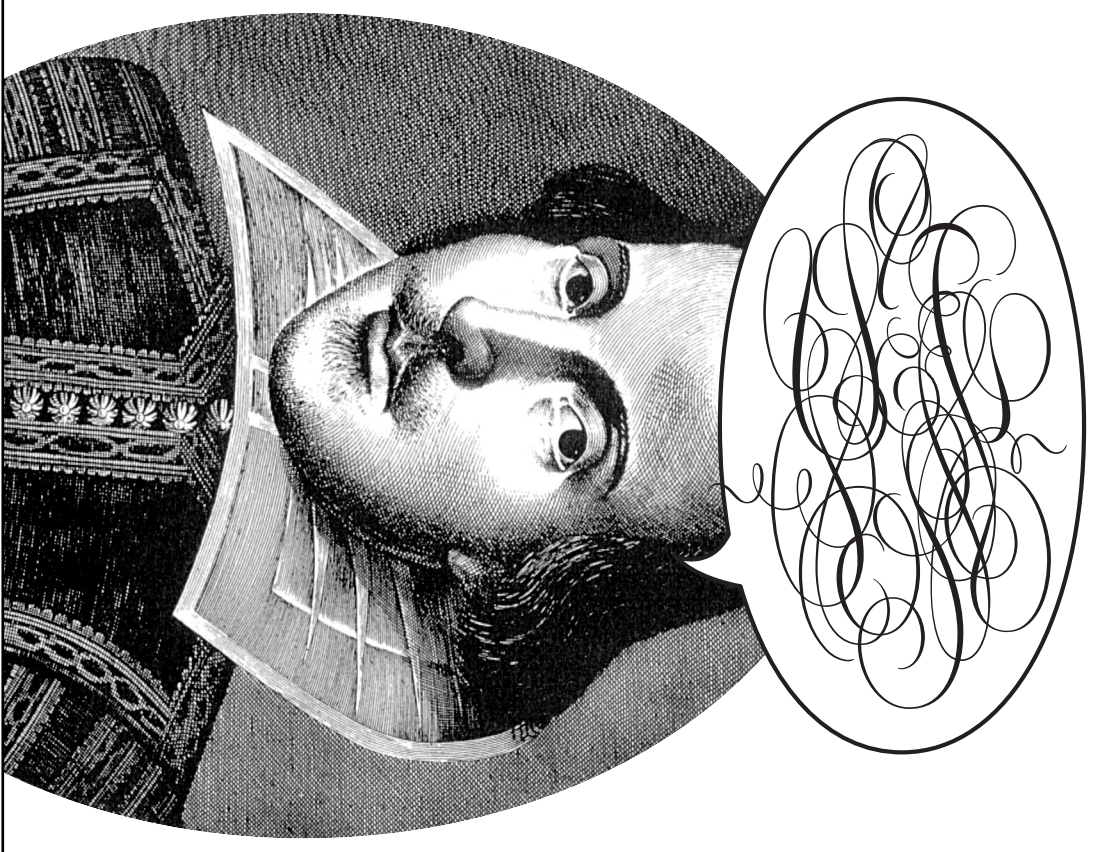


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# LANGUAGE OF SHAKESPEARE

## *Shakespearean Sonnet*

A sonnet is a short poem that has fourteen lines and follows a strict form of

A  
B  
A  
B  
C  
D  
C  
D  
E  
F  
E  
F  
G  
G

In this rhyme scheme Line A rhymes with Line A, B with B and so on. The three sets of four lines (ABAB, CDCD, EFEF) are called quatrains. The last two lines at the end are called a couplet. Sonnets also generally have a thematic structure. The first two quatrains (ABAB, CDCD) set up a problem, and the third (EFEF) answers the problem. The couplet (GG) usually makes a statement regarding the problem.

Read the following sonnet by Shakespeare and see if you can see how it follows the pattern.

A Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
B Thou art more lovely and more temperate.  
A Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
B And summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
C Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
D And often in his gold complexion dimmed,  
C And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
D By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed;  
E But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
F Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
E Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade  
F When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st.  
G So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,  
G So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



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# LANGUAGE OF SHAKESPEARE

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