

Structure in 'Sonnet 18'

English

Lesson 3 of 'Sonnet 18' by William Shakespeare

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Copy out and complete the sentences below by filling in the gaps

- 1) S_____ean sonnets are one of the most well known of the s_____ form.
- 2) The main t_____ of a Shakespearean sonnet is _____.
- 3) The s_____ in 'Sonnet 18' is most likely addressing a y_____ m__ that he d_____.



True or false?

- a) A pair of syllables is called an iamb.
- b) Shakespeare uses iambic pentameter throughout his sonnets.
- c) A Shakespearean sonnet is written in free verse with no strict metre.
- d) No other writers use iambic pentameter, only Shakespeare.



Copy out the lines below and annotate the syllables (10) and iambs (pairs of syllables - 5) on the lines below using a 1 & 2 to represent the syllables, and a / to split the iambs.

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;



Why does Shakespeare use iambic pentameter?

Option 1

iambic pentameter
mimics human speech.

Option 3

iambic pentameter was
fashionable at the time.

Option 2

iambic pentameter
mimics a beating heart.

Option 4

iambic pentameter sounds
like a nursery rhyme.



Sonnet 18 - Label rhymes in the remaining lines of the poem

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:

A
B
A
B



Copy out and complete the sentences below by filling in the gaps

- 1) Shakespeare uses i_____ p_____ as a metre to symbolise a b_____ h_____.
- 2) Shakespeare uses an ABAB r_____ s_____ to represent the wooing of two lovers.
- 3) Shakespeare ends with a r_____ c_____ to represent the coming together of the two l_____.



Sentence Expansion

Copy the following three sentence openings and expand:

1. Shakespeare uses iambic pentameter in his sonnets because ...
2. Shakespeare uses an ABAB rhyme scheme in his sonnets because ...
3. Shakespeare uses a rhyming couplet at the end of his sonnets because ...

