Sonnets
Petrarchan Sonnets
(Italian Sonnets)

- Two parts:
  - The Octave = two quatrains = 8 lines
    - Octopus
  - The Sestet = 6 lines
  - The ninth line (9th) presents the twist or turn in the poem.
Petrarchan Sonnets cont.

- Rhyme Scheme
  - ABBA ABBA
    - No connection to the band ABBA
  - CDCDCD or CDECDE
Spenserian Sonnet

- Named after Edmund Spenser
  - Looks kind of like Chuck Norris
- 14 lines
- No real requirements based on theme
- Rhyme Scheme...
  - ABAB BCBC CDCD EE
Modern Sonnets

• Once free verse was introduced, sonnets somewhat disappeared from the poetry universe.

• However, some poets still used the form including:
  – Robert Frost
  – E.E. Cummings
  – The Police song,
    • “Does Everyone Stare?”
Other Lesser Known Sonnets

• Curtal Sonnets
  - 10 ½ line poem invented by Gerald Manley Hopkins
  - No connections to Johns Hopkins, Anthony Hopkins, Webkinz, Barley Hops, or the hip-hop genre.
Other Lesser Known Sonnets

• Caudate Sonnets
  – 14 lines followed by a “coda” in Latin meaning “tail” or “conclusion.”
  – Led Zeppelin’s 1982 album “CODA” was their last album ever recorded.
Other Lesser Known Sonnets

• African Sonnets
  – Also known as “chain or train sonnets”

• Pushkin Sonnets
  – Created by Alexander Pushkin
  – Rhyme scheme of aBaBccDDeFFeGG
    • Lower case letters meaning feminine lines
    • Upper case letters meaning masculine lines
      – It is not known whether or not he was indeed a sexist
However...

- The academy award for the most popular type of Sonnet goes to...
William Shakespeare for Shakespearean Sonnets!
Shakespearean Sonnets

• Also known as English sonnets
• Common Themes include:
  – Love, Beauty, Politics, and Morality
• There are 154 known sonnets written by Shakespeare
  – 2,157 Lines of Poetry
Shakespearean Sonnets

• Separated into...
  – Three 4 line Stanzas known as Quatrains
    • Four quarters equal a dollar.
  – 1 Couplet at the end
    • Couplet is similar to couple, which is consisted of 2 people.

• Usually 10 syllables per line

• Rhyme Scheme
  – ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
  – 7 rhymes
Shakespearean Sonnets

• Usually written in iambic Pentameter
  – Iambic meaning...
    • Unstressed/ stressed
    • “da DUM / da DUM / da DUM / da DUM
      / da DUM”
      – Not like Rihanna’s “Disturbia”
      – Like a heartbeat... ba boom, ba boom, ba boom
  – Pentameter meaning...
    • Five meters per line
      – Pentagon has 5 sides
      – 1 meter = 2 syllables
Shakespearean Sonnets

- First Two Quatrains
  - Presents Idea, Theme, or Story
- Last Quatrain
  - Provides Twist or Turn
- Rhyming Couplet
  - Summarizes the theme of the poem or introduces a fresh new look at the theme

Rollercoaster ride metaphor...
1. You see the coaster, get opinions and/or ideas of how it will feel when you ride it.
2. You actually go on the coaster and you feel the twists and turns throughout.
3. You summarize your experience on the coaster.
Sonnet XVIII

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 owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.