

What is a sonnet?

- ◆ The term, sonnet, is derived from the Italian word, sonetto, meaning **little song**
- ◆ Two main types of sonnets: Italian (**Petrarchian**) and English (**Shakespearean**)
- ◆ All sonnets have **14 lines**, employ a strict rhyme scheme, and a logical structure



Shakespearean Sonnets

- ◆ All Shakespearean sonnets employ the following rhyme scheme:

ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, GG

- ◆ Each grouping of four lines is called a **quatrain**. There are three quatrains in each sonnet.
- ◆ The final two lines, which rhyme themselves, are called a **couplet**.
- ◆ Each sonnet also includes a **Volta**, a shift in tone or thought.



Iambic Pentameter

- ♦ **Iambic Pentameter:** lines of poetry that can be divided into 5 metric feet with alternately unstressed and stressed syllables.
- ♦ **10 syllables per line;** every other syllable is stressed
- ♦ **EXAMPLE:** My name/ is John/ I love/to go/ to school

