

THE SONNET

SHAKESPEAREAN RHYME:
abab cdcd efef gg

PETRARCHEAN RHYME:
abba abba cdecde

SPENSERIAN RHYME:
abab bcbc cdcd ee

DIASPORA RHYME:
ababcbcdcdedee

Dante 1265=1321
Petrarch 1304=1374
Chaucer 1344=1400
Spenser 1552=1599
Sidney 1554=1586
Shakespeare 1564=1616
Donne 1571=1631
Milton 1608=1674
Wordsworth 1770=1850
Shelley 1792=1822
Keats 1795=1821
Millay
Robert Lowell

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Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? a
Thou art more lovely and more temperate: b
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, a
And summer's lease hath all too short a date: b
Sometimes too hot the eye of heav'n shines, c
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd: d
And every fair from fair sometimes declines, c
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimm'd. d
But thy eternal summer shall not fade e
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest; f
Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade, e
When in eternal lines to time thou growest: f
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, g
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee. g

William Shakespeare / sonnet #18

Octet first 8 lines (opening 2 quatrains); sestet last 6 lines (third quatrain + couplet). Pivot usually takes place after line 8. Usual line is iambic pentameter, though Shakespeare will invariably alter opening foot of each sonnet.

