

Conventions of a Petrarchan Sonnet

1	Number of lines	14
2	Stanza structure	Octave followed by a sestet
3	Volta	Generally occurs on Line 9
4	Meter	Iambic pentameter
5	Rhyme scheme	ABBAABBA CDECDE CDCDCD CDEDCE
6	Theme/s	Courtly Love
7	Language	Italian

Conventions of a Shakespearian Sonnet

1	Number of lines	14
2	Stanza structure	3 Quatrains
3	Volta	May occur anywhere in the poem
4	Meter	Iambic pentameter
5	Rhyme scheme	ABABCD CDEFEGG
6	Theme/s	Love, philosophy
7	Language	English

Key Vocabulary

1	Sonnet	This is the form of the poem. Italian for 'little song'.
2	Stanza	Lines grouped together. Also referred to as a verse.
3	Octave	A group/ stanza of eight lines.
4	Sestet	A group / stanza of six lines.
5	Volta	The turning point in a sonnet.
6	Iamb	An unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable e.g., Arise, Happy
7	Pentameter	
8	Syllable	
9	Meter	The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line.
10	Quatrain	
11	Couplet	
12	/ (stressed) - (unstressed)	
13	Courtly Love	The art of romance practiced by the European courts during the middle ages (1300-1500).

Key Poets

1	Petrarch	Francesco Petrarca, (1304 – 1374). Italian scholar and poet famous for his sonnets addressed to Laura, an idealized and unattainable lover.	6	Emma Lazarus	
2	Shakespeare		7	Countee Cullen	Countee Cullen was an African American poet who wrote during the Harlem Renaissance period in 1920s and 30s New York.
3	Wordsworth (1770-1850)	William Wordsworth was an English poet from Cumbria who spent time living in France during the revolution. He wrote about feelings and nature.	8	Tony Harrison	
4	Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)	Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an English poet who lived in London with a very controlling father. She wrote about her love of her husband and political and moral issues.	9	Carol Ann Duffy	Carol Ann Duffy is a British poet and playwright. She is also a professor of contemporary poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University. She has written many collections of poetry such as <i>The World's Wife</i> and <i>Feminine Gospels</i> .
5	Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)	Christina Rossetti was considered one of the finest female poets of the Victorian era alongside EBB and wrote romantic, devotional and children's poetry.		Simon Armitage	