

Sonnet Revision Quiz

This document is the tutor's copy of the quiz, complete with answers and tutor responses .

The sonnet the students were asked to analyse is not included with this sample.

Q1

First of all, have a look at the *format* of the poem. Is it the traditional sonnet configuration? What might that be?



Answer:

Of course, this is a traditional sonnet in terms of how it looks with the single block stanza (denoting a concentration of thought/s?) and the indented rhyming, 'heroic' or 'crowning' couplet at the end.

Q2

What is the rhyme scheme? (Remember! The sonnet type is denoted by the rhyme scheme)

- abba abba edde ee
- abed abed ee ff
- abab cdcd efef gg
- abba edde effe gg

Q3

In this question we will be looking at metre. Do not to worry too much about this - just have a go. The most important thing is to read the poem aloud and work out general pace and rhythm; these will always be linked to the emotional changes in the

sonnet. As we said in class it is the case that, generally speaking, the Shakespearean sonnet is in iambic pentameter (unstressed stressed, unstressed stressed, unstressed stressed, unstressed stressed - denoted by X/ and colloquially remembered by 'Tee TUM' etc etc). There will be times when the stress is inverted ('trochaic' - /X), but there are still two 'iambus'. Spondee (XX) and Pyrrhic (/) are less common variations.

When there are three beats this can be either Anapaest (/X) or Dactylic (X/). You may find you have a mix of all of these in most sonnets. Use some of the tips from the 1623 Theatre Company session to help unpack the rhythm, like beating out the iambic and reading the poem aloud in different ways. You may find, as we said in class, that there is just one extra beat in a line of a sonnet - why might this be so? A drawing-out of emotion, possibly?? The latter can be positive as well as emotional, of course.

- ~~A mix of spondaic and pyrrhic metre.~~
- ~~A mix of anapaest and iambic metre.~~
- Generally iambic, but with some trochaic ('inverted') metre.
- ~~Generally pyrrhic and iambic metre.~~

Q4

In this answer you should explain why you have given the response you did to the previous question ...

Answer:

Q5

These are the formal poetic devices that help move a poem along and give it its visual and aural impact. If you're still not sure about all of them (alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, sibilance, metaphor, simile, litotes, oxymoron, hyperbole, caesura, etc. etc.) ... REVISE!

What poetic devices are used in this line? ...

'Borne on the bier with white and bristly beard'

- ~~Litotes.~~
- Personification and alliteration/alliterative effect.
- ~~Personification and alliteration.~~
- ~~Oxymoron and sibilance.~~



Q6

Why did you give the response you did? Now that you've identified one of the prosodic devices you can dig deeper and say what the poetic EFFECT is of all the prosodic devices you've spotted ... You are now building up a fuller response to the poem. You do not slavishly have to through the sonnet and tot them up, as it were; it is better to look at the sonnet graphically and begin to work out connections between the different devices. In that way you will achieve a more complex reading.

Answer:

Q7

[A full text of a sonnet was provided for the students in the quiz.]

Where is the volta in this sonnet? Click on the line where you think it is...

version 0.06



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