

# WHAT IS A SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET?

A Shakespearean sonnet is a form of poetry consisting of three quatrains and a concluding couplet with the rhyme pattern **abab cdcd efef gg**. Shakespearean sonnets are generally written using iambic pentameter, a rhyme scheme in which each line contains 10 syllables.

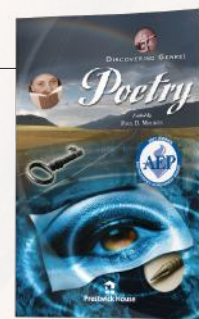
## Sonnet CXXX (130)

- a** My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
**b** Coral is far more red than her lips' red;  
**a** If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
**b** If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
**c** I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
**d** But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
**c** And in some perfumes is there more delight  
**d** Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
**e** I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
**f** That music hath a far more pleasing sound;  
**e** I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
**f** My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.  
**g** And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
**g** As any she belied with false compare.

Scorn not the Sonnet; Critic,  
you have frowned,  
Mindless of its just honours;  
with this key  
Shakespeare unlocked his heart.

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