

Sonnet

[Literature](#), [William Shakespeare](#)



Sonnet A sonnet is a poetic form which originated in Italy; the Sicilian poet Giacomo da Lentini is credited with its invention. They normatively consist of fourteen lines. The term sonnet derives from the Italian word sonetto, meaning " little song." By the thirteenth century, it signified a poem of fourteen lines that follows a strict rhyme scheme and specific structure. Conventions associated with the sonnet have evolved over its history. Writers of sonnets are sometimes called " sonneteers," although the term can be used derisively. One of the best-known sonnet writers is William Shakespeare, who wrote 154 of them (not including those that appear in his plays). A Shakespearean, or English, sonnet consists of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter, in which a pattern of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable is repeated five times. The rhyme scheme in a Shakespearean sonnet is a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g; the last two lines are a rhyming couplet. Traditionally, English poets employ iambic pentameter when writing sonnets, but not all English sonnets have the same metrical structure. The first sonnet in Sir Philip Sidney's sequence *Astrophel and Stella*, for example, has 12 syllables; these lines are iambic hexameters, albeit with an inverted first foot in several lines. In the Romance languages, the hendecasyllable and Alexandrine are the most widely used metres. 1 Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet 2 Dante's variation 3 Occitan sonnet 4 English (Shakespearean) sonnet 5 Spenserian sonnet 6 Urdu Sonnet 7 Modern sonnet 8 See also 8. 1 Types of sonnets 8. 2 Groups of sonnets 8. 3 Forms commonly associated with sonnets