

Sonnet Quiz & Assessment

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer each question. Use complete sentences when an explanation is requested.

1. How many lines are in a sonnet?
2. What meter is strongly associated with English sonnets?
3. What is the Shakespearean rhyme scheme?
4. How is a Shakespearean sonnet usually divided?
5. What is a volta?
6. What is a couplet?
7. What is an octave?
8. What is a sestet?
9. Name one major sonnet tradition besides Shakespearean.
10. Why is the final couplet often important in a Shakespearean sonnet?

Teacher Answer Key

1. 14
2. Iambic pentameter
3. ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
4. Three quatrains and a couplet
5. A turn in thought or argument
6. Two consecutive lines
7. Eight-line section
8. Six-line section
9. Petrarchan/Italian
10. It often concludes, reframes, or sharpens the argument

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