Shakespeare wrote a collection of 154 sonnets, which were first published in 1609. They deal with themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality. Below is one of his more famous sonnets.

SONNET 130

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun\(^1\);
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damask'd\(^2\), red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied\(^3\) with false compare.

1. a dull grayish-brown color
2. a woven fabric with patterns and figures visible on both sides
3. fail to prove

Directions:

- What is the title of this poem? ___________________________________________________________
- How many lines are in the poem? ______
- What line does the second stanza begin on? ______
- What is the rhyme scheme? __________________________________________________________
- What is the meter? ___________________________________________________________________
- What is the meter in this poem called? _________________________________________________
  - Definition: _______________________________________________________________________
- What purpose does the first stanza serve? ________________________________________________
- What purpose does the last stanza serve? ________________________________________________
Assignment Directions:

Write a Shakespeare style sonnet (see example below) either from the perspective of one of the characters in 
*Romeo and Juliet* or about one of the places or objects in the play. If you chose to write from one of the 
character’s perspectives, the character does not have to be Romeo or Juliet; he or she can be any of the 
characters, even one as insignificant as Paris’ page.

**Process for Writing a Shakespearean Sonnet:**

- Choose a subject (person, place, or thing) to write the sonnet about.
- Write 12 poetic lines describing the person using similes, metaphors, and personification to do so.
  - If your subject is a person, you can only use similes and metaphors.
  - If your subject is a thing, you can use similes, metaphors, and personification.
- Skip a line between lines 12 and 13 creating two stanzas.
- Write 2 poetic lines that show the theme of the poem (how you really feel about the subject).
- While writing the poem for the first time, do not worry about the rhyme scheme or the meter.
- After the 14 lines are written, work on the rhyme scheme, which must be: a,b,a,b,c,d,c,d,e,f,e,f // a,a.
  - This means you will probably have to change some of what you wrote in each line.
- After you have finished with the rhyme scheme, work on the meter of the poem so that every line has 
extactly 10 syllables.
  - You do not need to make the meter iambic pentameter.
  - This means you will probably have to change some of what you wrote in each line.
- You have now completed the first draft of your sonnet!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sonnet Rubric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 poetic lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last 2 lines drive the point home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• separate the last two lines from the rest of the poem with an extra line space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyme Scheme: a,b,a,b,c,d,c,d,e,f,e,f // a,a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iambic pentameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written from the perspective of one character in <em>Romeo and Juliet</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality figurative language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typed (left justified; <strong>not</strong> centered)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper heading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>