



ELA Virtual Learning

**English III/Shakespeare's
sonnets**

May 21, 2020



Lesson: May 21, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- Evaluate how an author's structure affects the aesthetic impact of a text.

Bell Ringer



Think about some of your favorite songs. What makes them catchy?

Do the most popular songs today have any similarities in the way they are structured? What are they?

Learn

By now you have probably realized that songs are a form of poetry. The way that songs or poems are structured has an impact on their meaning or how they are perceived. One of the best examples of intentional structure in poetry can be seen in Shakespeare's sonnets.

Before we read one of his sonnets, let's break down what a sonnet is and how it is structured.

Learn

- Check out this resource that explains the [6 types of sonnets](#). You only need to focus on Shakespearean and Petrarchan sonnets, but the other forms are there if you are interested.
- Watch this video that explains how Shakespeare structures his sonnets with the use of [iambic Pentameter](#).
- Here is another video that covers [iambic Pentameter and stressed vs unstressed syllables](#) if you need some additional help.

Practice

Look at the excerpt from Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 below. Highlight which syllables are stressed.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Practice Answer Key

(Answers will vary)

Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:

- The stressed syllables are highlighted

See an example of a proficient answer on the next slide.

Sample Proficient Answer

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Questions for Reflection

1. How does Iambic Pentameter affect the flow of Shakespeare's writing?
2. Can you think of any words that are spelled the same, but mean different things because of which syllable is stressed? (ex. PRES-ent vs pre-SENT)

Additional Resources

