

Literature Ex. – Poetry Analysis

Ex. 1 > Read the sonnet below. Count the **number of syllables** in each line and find the meter. *There is an example for you.*

Sonnet XVII by William Shakespeare

1 Who will believe my verse in time to come,	10	A
2 If it were filled with your most high deserts?	—	—
3 Though yet Heaven knows, it is but as a tomb	—	A
4 Which hides your life, and shows not half your parts.	—	—
5 If I could write the beauty of your eyes,	—	—
6 And in fresh numbers number all your graces	—	—
7 The age to come would say, This poet lies,	—	—
8 Such heavenly touches ne'er touched earthly faces.'	—	—
9 So should my papers, yellowed with their age,	—	—
10 Be scorned like old men of less truth than tongue	—	—
11 And your true rights be termed a poet's rage	—	—
12 And stretched meter of an antique song:	—	—
13 But were some child of yours alive that time	—	—
14 You should like twice - in it, and in my rhyme.	—	—

Ex. 2 > **Identifying the rhyme scheme!** Based on the previous sonnet, arrange in pairs the words in bold whose rhyme is similar. Write the letters (B-G) on the red lines above. *There is an example for you.*

Ex. 3 > **Division of poetry!** Based on the following chart, decide which stanzas compose the Sonnet XVII. The rhyme scheme may give you some clues.

- Couplet: two-line stanza*
- Triplet: three-line stanza*
- Quatrain: four-line stanza*
- Quintet: five-line stanza*

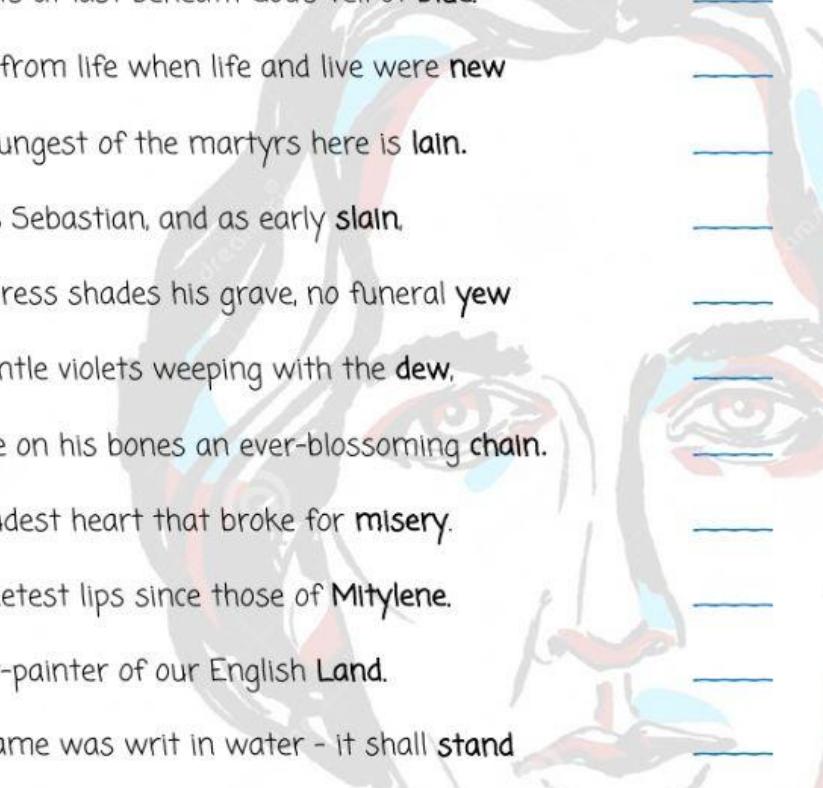
- Sestet: six-line stanza*
- Septet: seven-line stanza*
- Octave: eight-line stanza*

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Ex. 4 > Read the following Petrarchan sonnet. Count the **number of syllables in each line and find its rhyme scheme (A-E).**

The Grave of Keats by Oscar Wilde



- 1 Rid of the world's injustice, and his pain,
- 2 He rests at last beneath God's veil of blue:
- 3 Taken from life when life and live were new
- 4 The youngest of the martyrs here is laid.
- 5 Fair as Sebastian, and as early slain.
- 6 No cypress shades his grave, no funeral yew
- 7 But gentle violets weeping with the dew,
- 8 Weave on his bones an ever-blossoming chain.
- 9 O proudest heart that broke for misery.
- 10 O sweetest lips since those of Mitylene.
- 11 O poet-painter of our English Land.
- 12 Thy name was writ in water - it shall stand
- 13 And tears like mine will keep thy memory green,
- 14 As Isabella did her Basil-tree.

Ex. 5 > Division of poetry! Decide which stanzas compose the previous Petrarchan sonnet.

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Couplet: two-line stanza</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sestet: six-line stanza</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Triplet: three-line stanza</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Septet: seven-line stanza</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Quatrain: four-line stanza</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Octave: eight-line stanza</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Quintet: five-line stanza</i>	