

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

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.

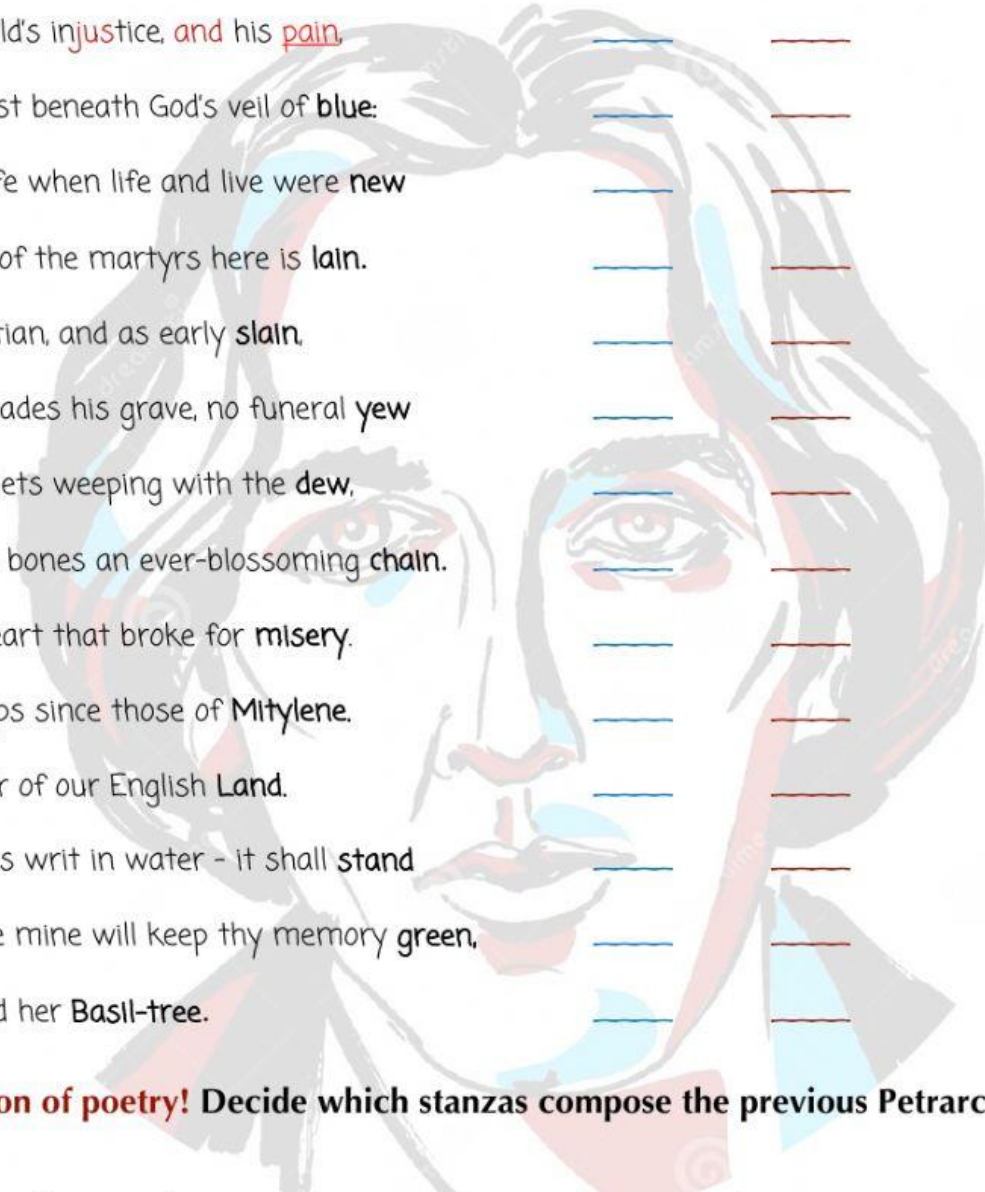
- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Couplet: two-line stanza | ☐ Sestet: six-line stanza |
| ☐ Triplet: three-line stanza | ☐ Septet: seven-line stanza |
| ☐ Quatrain: four-line stanza | ☐ Octave: eight-line stanza |
| ☐ Quintet: five-line stanza | |

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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

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- 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 lain. _____
- 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.

- ___ 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