

Sonnet Outline

1. (a) _____

2. (b) _____

3. (a) _____

4. (b) _____

5. (c) _____

6. (d) _____

7. (c) _____

8. (d) _____

9. (e) _____

10. (f) _____

11. (e) _____

12. (f) _____

13. (g) _____

14. (g) _____

Remember Each Line Has 10 Syllables

Directions for Writing a Sonnet

It must consist of 14 lines.

Each line must have 10 syllables

It must be written in one of various standard rhyme schemes.

If you're writing the most familiar kind of sonnet, the Shakespearean, the rhyme scheme is this:

A
B
A
B
C
D
C
D
E
F
E
F
G
G

Every A rhymes with every A, every B rhymes with every B, and so forth. You'll notice this type of sonnet consists of three quatrains (that is, four consecutive lines of verse that make up a stanza or division of lines in a poem) and one couplet (two consecutive rhyming lines of verse).

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest,
Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest.
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*