

How to write a SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

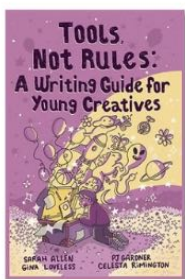
Sonnets are a classic and beautiful form of poetry. Especially Shakespeare's! Here's what you need to know to write one of your own!

- Sonnets have 14 lines.
- Shakespeare often uses 'iamb.' An iamb is two syllables--unstressed, then stressed. Think of the word 'until.'
- One sonnet line is ten syllables, often 5 'iamb.' Imagine saying 'until' 5 times.

Let's look at my favorite...Shakespeare's 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;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, 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 with false compare.

NOTICE HOW THERE'S A PLOT TWIST HERE? SUDDENLY THE TONE SHIFTS AND THINGS MEAN SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WE THOUGHT AT FIRST! A SONNET PLOT TWIST IS CALLED A 'VOLTA.'



CHECK OUT MORE WRITING PROMPTS AND EXERCISES HERE!



IN THIS BOOK, PENNY WRITES HER OWN SONNET CALLED 'MY MONSTER'S EYES.'

