

The English or Shakespearean Sonnet has 14 lines- **3 quatrains and 1 couplet**- written in **iambic pentameter**. The rhyme scheme is **ABAB CDCD EFEF GG**.

The **first quatrain** sets up the situation or the problem.

The **second quatrain** extends the situation or problem.

The **third quatrain** extends it further until **the turn** (YET or BUT or SO) occurs, either in this quatrain or in

the **couplet**- which will give the resolution, or the answer to the problem.

Sonnet 130

1) What is your first impression of what the speaker says about his mistress in the first 12 lines or 3 quatrains; how do you at first **perceive** his attitude towards his girlfriend or mistress?

2) While the speaker in the poem seems to be criticizing his lover, Shakespeare is, in fact, satirizing (or ridiculing) something else. What or who do you think Shakespeare is criticizing in this apparent love poem?

3) How would you describe the speaker's tone (his attitude that you see in his words) in this poem? Choose the **best adjective** to describe the **overall tone**:

- A. sincere B. dismissive C. ironic D. insulting

4) Read line 12: "My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground". What does the speaker imply about his lover in this line?

- A. She falls on the ground a lot. B. She walks heavily with stomping steps.
C. She is like a goddess, above everyone else. D. She is ordinary and average, like everyone else.

5) Does the speaker love his mistress or not? Explain your answer. Tell **why** you think this and **how** you know.

5) Which **choices** correctly **paraphrase** the last two lines?

- A. I think my woman is as special as any woman whom poets have lied about with false comparisons.
- B. Looks don't matter so much to me as a woman's smile does.
- C. My love for my woman is just as special as any man's who praises his woman's beauty overly much.
- D. My girl has some really bad breath.
- E. I don't have to praise the beauty of my woman and compare her favorably to nature to show that I love her.

Sonnet 138:

1. Explain why this poem is a sonnet.

2. Is the speaker in this poem young or old? Tell how you know.

3. In what way does the speaker's love **lie** to him? Explain using evidence from the poem.

4. In what way does the speaker lie to his love? Explain using evidence from the poem.

5. What is the meaning of the line "love's best habit is in seeming trust"?

- A. The best thing about love is the façade of truth/trust.
- B. It's easiest to love someone who seems to be trustworthy.
- C. The best trait of love is how we pretend to trust the other person.
- D. The best way to deal with love is to pretend to believe the best of your partner.

Mirror by Plath

1) Who is the speaker in the poem?

- A. An old woman B. a mirror C. the lake D. a young girl

2) How does the mirror speak the truth or show reality?

3) The **connotative** and not the literal meaning of "I am not cruel, only truthful" can best be described as -

- A. the mirror shows only true beauty
B. the mirror shows the aging of the woman
C. the mirror shows who is the most beautiful
D. the mirror show what hides in the shadows

4) "Now I am a lake" is an example of which **figurative device**, a simile or a metaphor? Explain the comparison.

5) The **mood** (how the poem makes the reader feel) of "The Mirror" can best be described as -

- A. funny and light B. dark and somber (serious) C. angry and regretful

6) Why does the woman turn to the liars- the candles or the moon? How do they not reflect reality?

7) How is the woman much like the speaker in Sonnet 138 when it comes to the truth?

8) What's the best choice for the theme of the poem?

- A. Time is a true constant for all people; aging is unavoidable.
B. Women worry about getting older more than men.
C. Mirrors tell the truth.