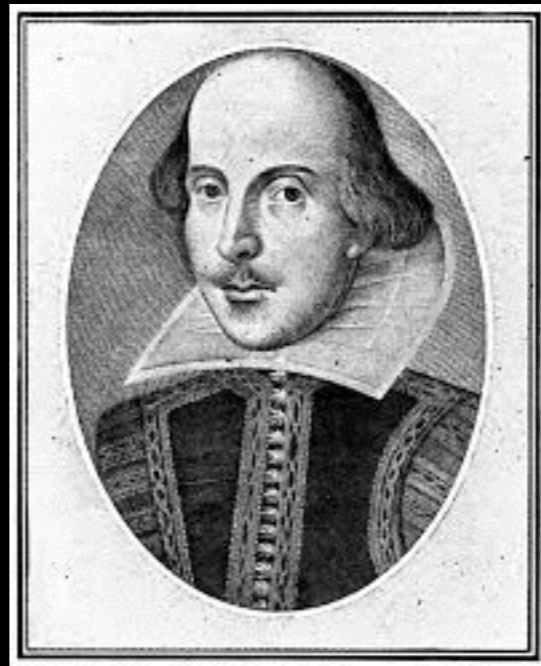


# The Sonnet



# Shakespearean Sonnet

- Sonnet: from the Italian word *sonetto*, meaning “little sound or song”
- Contains 14 lines
- The lines are broken into 3 Quatrains (4 lines of poetry) and 1 Couplet (2 lines of poetry).
- The Couplet often contains a Volta (a turning point or a change of attitude). Often the “punchline” of the poem.
- Rhyme scheme abab, cdcd, efef, gg
- Written in Iambic Pentameter
- Iambic Pentameter (10 syllables or 5 sets of 2 syllables)

# Sonnet 18: Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's day?

by William Shakespeare

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 dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st 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.