

Poet: _____

Reviewer: _____

Sonnet Evaluation Guide

Check the structure of this poem against the rules outlined in your sonnet packet. Does this poem fulfill all the requirements of the form? Answer for each question. *If **NO**, write the line numbers of deviations in the space following each blank.*

→ Does this poem have fourteen lines? **Yes** | **No**

→ Scan each line (mark in pencil the stressed and unstressed beats), and in the chart below, circle **Yes** if the line follows the prescribed meter (iambic pentameter) or **No** if it does not—or if the writer has strayed so far from the pattern that iambs are the exception rather than the rule.

→ Does the stanza division/rhyme scheme follow the prescribed pattern? Circle the specific type of sonnet:

Shakespearean | **Petrarchan** | **Unclear**

If you circled “Unclear,” please explain *why* to help the writer with revision notes:

In the following chart, identify the rhyme scheme, meter, and type of break for each line.

Line #	Rhyme Scheme	Iambic Penta-meter?	Line Breaks (circle one)	Stanza Synopsis—(1) Draw a line/s below to present the stanza divisions in this poem. (2) In the space now provided for each stanza, summarize its central idea. Note any progressions you find. (3) Draw a star ★ where the <i>volta</i> occurs.
1		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
2		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
3		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
4		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
5		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
6		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
7		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
8		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
9		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
10		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
11		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
12		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
13		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	
14		Yes No	Endstopped Enjambéd	

- If you do not see a clear turn of thought (*volta*), please discuss:

- Explain how the form of the poem** (stanza division, in particular) **helps shape its meaning.**
 - If **Petrarchan**, what idea/situation/problem/question does the octave present, and then how does the sestet discuss/change/resolve/answer it?
 - If **Shakespearean**, what progression of thought exists, moving from one quatrain to the next, creating tension in the poem? How does the heroic couplet resolve the tension/bring closure to the sonnet?

- List every image (visual, aural, tactile, etc.) in this poem. Write the line number after each.

- List every example of figurative language in this poem (simile, metaphor, etc.) Write the line number after each.

- Do any stanzas contain too much abstraction—too much telling, not enough showing (concreteness)? Identify specific areas and explain:

- What is your favorite line in this sonnet? Why?