What is a sonnet?

- A sonnet is a special type of love poem and Shakespeare is famous for writing them!
- An Elizabethan sonnet is made up of 14 lines.
- The first 12 lines are divided into verses of stanzas of four lines (called *quatrains*).
- Each quatrain has a rhyming scheme ABAB.
- The last two lines form a rhyming couplet.
- Each line of the sonnet must have ten syllables or 'beats' - a pattern called *iambic penatmeter*.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

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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 ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

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