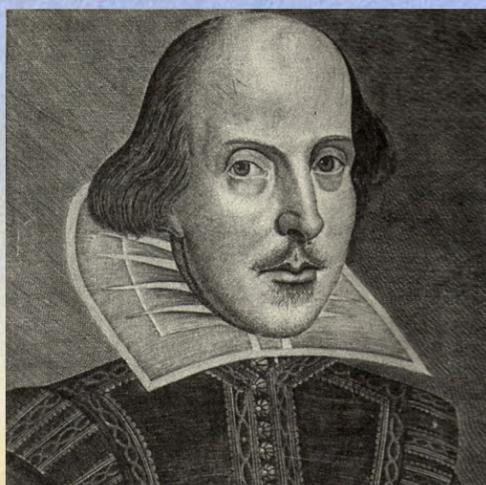
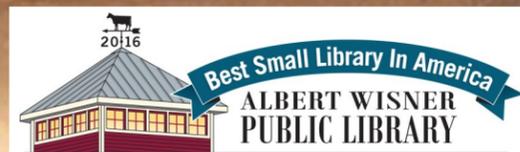


Shakespearean Sonnet Competition



Full many a valley morning have I seen...

Mts. Adam and Eve by Jasper Cropsey 1892

MARK THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH BY TRYING YOUR HAND AT A SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET ON A WARWICK VALLEY THEME

FIRST-TIME SONNETEERS WARMLY WELCOMED

FIRST PRIZE \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO YE OLDE WARWICK BOOK SHOPPE

TWO RUNNERS-UP ~ SHAKESPEARE COFFEE MUGS

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

RULES:

1. Sonnets must be in a true Renaissance Style *- That is, iambic pentameter with traditional sonnet rhyme scheme. Using modern English vocabulary, though, is fine - "thees" and thous" not required.
2. Participation is open to adults and teens ages 12 and up.
3. Sonnets must be in some way related to a Warwick Valley Themes, contexts, or settings.
4. Entrants may submit one sonnet only; sonnets must not be previously published.

****For a complete description of how to write a Shakespearean sonnet visit our website***

www.albertwisnerlibrary.org

We encourage all of you to try your hand at Writing like Shakespeare by entering our annual sonnet writing contest. Here's a how-to of Shakespearean sonnets to get you started!

WHAT IS A SONNET?:

Let's start at the beginning. A Sonnet is a 14 line poem using a formal rhyme scheme.

For Shakespeare, the rhyme scheme was Three Quatrains and a Couplet: A-B-A-B C-D-C-D E-F-E-F G-G

Additionally, Shakespeare wrote in Iambic Pentameter. We'll look at this in a moment.

RHYME PATTERN:

A Quatrain is a stanza of four lines with alternating rhymes. Let's look at Quatrain One of Sonnet 18:

Line 1: Shall I compare thee to a summer's DAY?

Line 2: Thou art more lovely and more temperATE:

Line 3: Rough winds do shake the darling buds of MAY,

Line 4: And summer's lease hath all too short a DATE:

The first line rhymes with the third line. The second line rhymes with the fourth. This rhyme pattern is repeated two more times for Quatrains Two and Three (lines 8-12).

The final two lines (the Couplet) rhyme with each other:

Line 13: So long as men can breathe or eyes can SEE,

Line 14: So long lives this and this gives life to THEE.

The overall rhyme pattern, then, is as follows:

Quatrain ONE:

A

B

A

B

Quatrain TWO:

C

D

C

D

Quatrain THREE:

E

F

E

F

COUPLET:

G

G

Now that we've looked at rhyming, let's move on to the meter.

IAMBIC PENTAMETER

What is it?

An iamb is metrical foot made up of one short (unstressed) syllable followed by one long (stressed) syllable.

Pentameter means five meters, or feet (penta = five). Iambic pentameter simply means that each line will contain five meters (pentameter), each of which will contain one iamb.

Let's break line one down into meters, then. We know that each meter contains two syllables (make sure you don't confuse syllable with word. Some words have multiple syllables).

Shall I/ compare/ thee to/ a summ/ er's day?

Meter 1 Meter 2 Meter 3 Meter 4 Meter 5

Easy enough (when you're not the one writing it). Now let's take a look at the iambs.

Remember the rule for iambs is the first syllable is short (unstressed) and second syllable is long (stressed). When you listen to the line out loud, you'll start to hear a pattern (da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM):

Shall I/ comPARE/ thee TO/ a SUMM/ er's DAY?

da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM

Putting these two rules together, when you have finished a line, you should have ten syllables total that alternate between unstressed and stressed.

QUICK RECAP

1. A sonnet is a 14 Line Poem.

2. Lines are broken into Three Quatrains and a Couplet.

A Quatrain is Four Lines with an alternating rhyme pattern: ABAB.

A Couplet is Two Lines that rhyme with each other.

3. Each Line is written in Iambic Pentameter:

5 Meters per line.

2 Iambs per meter. (two syllables unstressed to stressed "da-DUM")

There are 10 Syllables total per line.

Clear as mud, right? Let's take a look at how it looks when we put it all together:

(Quatrain ONE)

Line 01: Shall I / comPARE / thee TO / a SUMM / er's DAY?