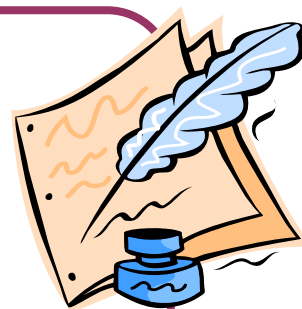


'Sonnet 116'

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments; love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O, no, it is an ever-fixèd mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.



Taking a closer look

1. What is this sonnet about?
2. Who is it from and who is it to?
3. How many lines are there in total?
4. Read this description of the structure of a sonnet then mark on the poem to show where you think these different sections are.

First quatrain: an explanation of the main idea.

What is the main idea? Highlight it on your copy of the poem.

Second quatrain: the idea is explained further or made more complicated.

How is the idea explained or complicated? Make notes on your copy.

Third quatrain: volta (a twist or conflict).

What is the twist or conflict? Highlight it on your copy.

Couplet: summarises and leaves the reader with a conclusion.

What is the concluding idea the reader is left with?

5. What do you think the words quatrain and couplet mean?
6. What is the rhyme scheme?
7. How many syllables are there in each line?

Putting it into practice

Now you've analysed the form of a sonnet, you can have a go at writing your own!

Remember to think about the format of the sonnet while you are writing.