

# SHAKESPEARE'S POEMS, AGE AND AUDIENCE

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# SHAKESPEARE'S POEMS

Shakespeare has written 154 sonnets.

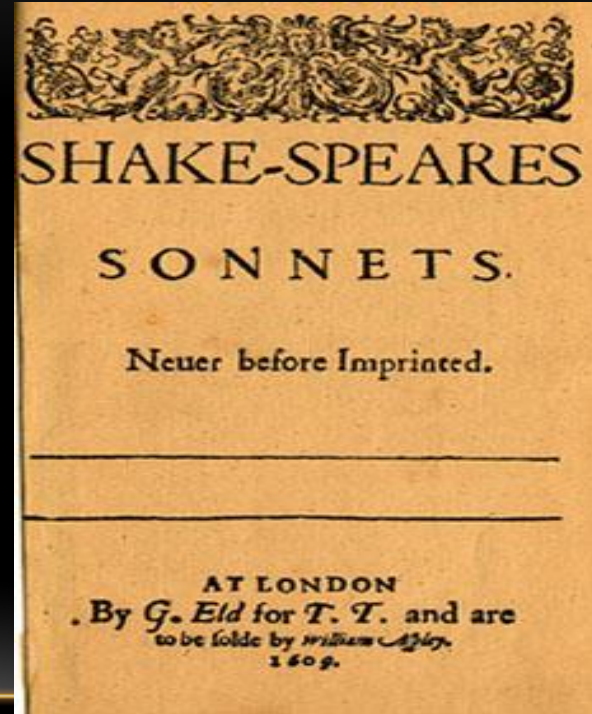
The Shakesperean or English

Sonnet has 14 lines and is divided

into three quartrains and a couplet.

The rhyming scheme usually is abab, cdcd, efef, gg.

Most of his sonnets are about love.



# SONNET 138 OCTAVE

When my love swears that she is made of truth,      a  
I do believe her though I know she **lies**,      b  
That she might think me some untutor'd youth,      a  
Unlearned in the world's false subtleties.      b

Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me **young**,      c  
Although she knows my days are past **the best**,      d  
Simply I credit her false-speaking **tongue**;      c  
On both sides thus is simple truth **suppressed**.      d

# SONNET 138 SESTET

But wherefore says she not she is unjust? e

And wherefore say not I that I am old? f

O! love's best habit is in seeming trust, e

And age in love loves not to have years told: f

Therefore I lie with her, and she with me, g

And in our faults by lies we flatter'd be. g

# SHAKESPEARE THEATRE: THE GLOBE

- It was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company and was destroyed by fire in 1613.
- A modern copy of the *Globe* was built in 1997
- The modern theatre is located in London on the banks of the river Thames.
- Today it is possible to see Shakespeare's plays at the *Globe*.



The globe is an open-air theatre because it took inspiration from the Roman amphitheatres.



# THE AUDIENCE

In the XVI - XVII centuries going to theatre was pure amusement. Everybody liked it, and poor people, too, went to see the most popular plays.

The poor did not have a seat; they stood "on the ground" in front of the stage and for this reason they were called "groundlings". This tradition is still respected today.



# THE ACTORS



In the Elizabethan Theatre women's roles were played by young men or boys.

Today at the Globe both men and women interpret Shakespearean characters, but some works are played

by men only to recreate the real atmosphere of that period.



# ELIZABETHAN AGE

- Shakespeare lived and worked in the Elizabethan Age
- This period is called Elizabethan from Queen Elizabeth I who reigned between 1558 and 1603.
- It is considered a golden age in the history of Britain because the country was healthy and powerful and it was a period of exploration and expansion abroad.
- In this period art and literature were very important and most popular of all was drama, thanks to Shakespeare and other artists.