

Name _____

Date _____

Sonnet

The deliberate arrangement of words is the mark of a well-crafted poem. The form of a poem is the arrangement of its words and lines on a page. One established form is a 4 line poem called a **sonnet**. The sonnet is a form that originated in Italy but was altered by English poets, especially William Shakespeare. The Shakespearean sonnet is named for the best-known user of the form.

Read the following sonnet and answer the questions.

Spring's Promise

The winter's chill has finally passed away,
As gentle sunshine warms the waiting ground.
The birds return with songs of brighter day,
And flowers peek through soil without a sound.

The stream that once was frozen starts to flow,
While trees dress up in coats of tender green.
The breezes soft make dandelion seeds blow,
Creating wishes carried yet unseen.
Young children laugh and play in meadows fair,
Their heavy coats and mittens set aside.
The world awakens with a fresher air,
As nature shows her colors far and wide.

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Sonnet

Though seasons change and time moves ever on,
Spring's promise tells us hope is never gone.

1. How many lines does this sonnet have? How are they grouped?

2. Identify the rhyme scheme of this sonnet.

3. What are the two main parts of this sonnet's structure?

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Sonnet - Answer Key

1. How many lines does this sonnet have? How are they grouped?

This sonnet has 14 lines. They are grouped into three quatrains (four-line stanzas) followed by one couplet (two-line stanza).

2. Identify the rhyme scheme of this sonnet.

The rhyme scheme is ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. This is the typical rhyme scheme of an English sonnet.

3. What are the two main parts of this sonnet's structure?

The two main parts are the octave (first 12 lines) and the closing couplet (final 2 lines).