

## ROMANTIC-ERA POETIC FORMS

**Lyric poetry:** A brief, emotive poem written in first person; it emphasizes sound and pictorial imagery rather than narrative or dramatic movement.

**Ode (odal hymn):** A long, stately lyric poem in stanzas of varied metrical patterns. The poem represents divine creative power separate from the poet, but which the poet seeks to possess.

**Elegy:** A poem on mourning or lamentation (usually about a death).

**Mock Heroic:** This form of poetry was popular during Dryden, Swift and Pope's era (just prior to the Romantic era) and is associated with satire and parody.

**Sonnet:** A poem with 14 lines and a particular end-rhyme scheme. Various types include Spenserian, Petrarchan (Italian or Miltonic), Shakespearean (illegitimate English form). This form was used by women during the Romantic-Era to move away from logic and reason and more toward feeling and mood.

### **Petrarchan (or Italian or Miltonic) Sonnet (considered "legitimate" form):**

Structure: 14 lines  
an *octave* (a stanza of 8 lines) and a *sestet* (a stanza of 6 lines)  
rhyme scheme: *abba abba cdecde*

Content: problem, situation or incident in octave  
resolution in sestet

Example: see Mary Robinson's sonnets

### **Shakespearean (or English) Sonnet (considered "illegitimate" form):**

Structure: 14 lines  
3 *quatrains* (a stanza of 4 lines; the most used stanzaic form in English poetry)  
ends with a rhyming *couplet* (a stanza of 2 lines)  
rhyme scheme: *abab cdcd efef gg*

Content: repetition-with-variation of a statement in each quatrain  
Epigrammatic<sup>1</sup> turn at end of the final couplet

Example: see Charlotte Smith's *Elegiac Sonnets*

**Sonnet Sequence:** A series of sonnets are linked together by exploring the varied aspects of a relationship between lovers, or else by indicating a development in the relationship that constitutes a kind of implicit plot (Abrams 300).

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<sup>1</sup>Neat & witty statements in prose or poetry (Abrams 84).