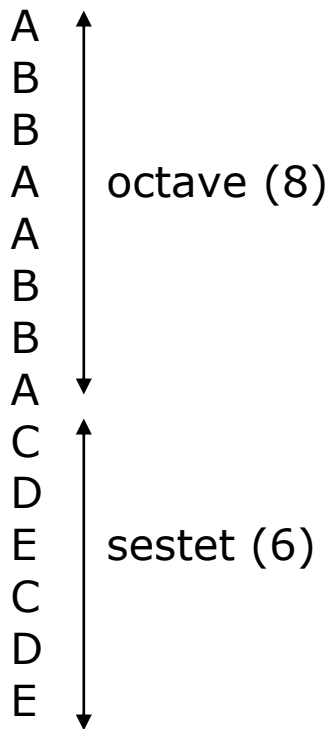


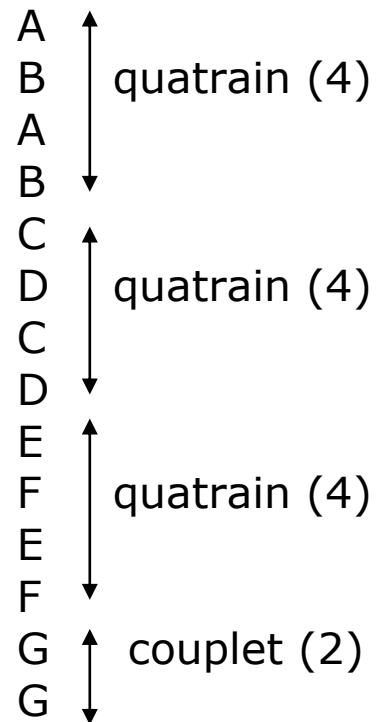
The Sonnet

Definition: a fourteen-line poem with a single theme, usually written with the rhythm of iambic pentameter

Italian or Petrarchan



English or Shakespearean



The two parts of the *Italian or Petrarchan sonnet* work together. The octave raises a question, states a problem, or presents a brief narrative; the sestet answers the question, solves the problem, or comments on the narrative.

Each of the quatrains of the *English or Shakespearean sonnet* usually explores one aspect of the main idea—stating a problem, raising a question, and/or presenting a narrative situation. The final couplet presents a startling or seemingly contrasting concluding statement.