



Sonnet Structure – Form Leads to Meaning Grade Ten

Skill Focus

Levels of Thinking					
Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Close Reading		Grammar		Composition	
Reading Strategies Inference Summary Sound Devices Rhyme Rhythm Literary Forms Verse	Syntax Techniques Repetition		Types (modes) Expository analytical Multiple Mode Expressive Imaginative Style/Voice Conscious Manipulation of Sentence Patterns Imitation of Stylistic Models Selection of Vocabulary Tone Shifts Use of Figures of Speech Use of Literary Elements Use of Literary Techniques Use of Sound Devices		

Composition

Materials and Resources

- “Sonnet 30” by William Shakespeare

Lesson Introduction

Before doing this lesson, the students will need some background on sonnet form. A sonnet is a fourteen-line poem written in iambic pentameter, with a definite rhyme scheme. Shakespearean and Italian sonnet forms differ in their rhyme patterns. Information on sonnet form can be found easily on line or in any literary terms handbook.

Tenth graders are practiced enough with analytical reading to do this “untangling” of a sonnet. They may enjoy writing their own sonnet after they do the exercise.



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Below is a sonnet written out as a paragraph. Using your knowledge of sonnet structure, write the poem as it should appear. Answer the questions that follow.

Paragraph structure:

When to sessions of sweet silent thought I summon up remembrance of things past, I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought, and with old woes new wail my dear time's waste: Then can I drown an eye (unused to flow) for precious friends hid in death's dateless night, and weep afresh love's long since canceled woe, and moan th' expense of many a vanished sight: Then can I grieve at grievances foregone, and heavily from woe to woe tell o'er the sad account of fore-bemoanèd moan, which I new pay as if not paid before. But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, all losses are restored and sorrows end.

Sonnet Structure:



1. What type of sonnet is it?
2. Summarize the message of the sonnet.
3. Explain how structure is linked to meaning in this sonnet.
4. What forms of repetition appear in this poem?
5. Select one form of repetition and discuss the effect or purpose.
6. Write your own sonnet.