Shakespeare's sonnets are very different from Shakespeare's plays, but they do contain dramatic elements and an overall sense of story. Each of the poems deals with a highly personal theme, and each can be taken on its own or in relation to the poems around it. Sonnet 130

Summary. This sonnet compares the speaker's lover to a number of other beauties—and never in the lover's favor. Her eyes are "nothing like the sun," her lips are less red than coral; compared to white snow, her breasts are dun-colored, and her hairs are like black wires on her head. Penlighten explains the characteristics of Shakespearean sonnets with examples. Shakespeare has written 15 lines in the sonnet 99. He adds an additional line in the first quatrain with a rhyme scheme ababa. Here is another exception. He goes beyond that by adding more characters, which is usually referred to as the Fair Youth, the Rival Poet, and the Dark Lady. It is hard to guess if the characters are fictional or autobiographical. Though some have tried to identify these characters, no one can pinpoint the exact people who are the inspiration for these three characters. Themes. Shakespeare does include a theme of romantic love in his sonnets. Moreover, we see a love triangle between the speaker, the fair youth, and the dark lady. Introduction to Shakespeare's Sonnets A sonnet is a 14-line poem that rhymes in a particular pattern. In Shakespeare's sonnets, the rhyme pattern is abab cdcd efef gg, with the final couplet used to summarize the previous 12 lines or present a surprise ending. The rhythmic pattern of the sonnets is the iambic pentameter. An iamb is a metrical foot consisting of one stressed syllable and one unstressed syllable — as in dah-DUM, dah-DUM dah-DUM dah-DUM dah-DUM.