**Iambic Pentameter Notes**  
Shakespeare’s predominant meter was iambic. A unit of iambic meter, called an iambic foot, consists of a soft stress followed by a sharp one: da-DUM.  
  
A good example of an every day word that acts as iambic foot is: toDAY. traPEZE, LeBRON   
  
Shakespeare wrote most of his poetry in iambi pentameter, five units of iambic beat to a line.

**The Shakespearean Sonnet** **Notes**  
Shakespeare did not invent the English sonnet form, but he is recognized as its greatest practitioner; therefore, the English sonnet is commonly called the Shakespearean sonnet.  
  
The Shakespearean sonnet consists of three quatrains (four-line stanzas), rhyming abab, cdcd, efef, and a couplet (a two-line stanza), rhyming gg. Because each new stanza introduces a new set of rhyming sounds, the Shakespearean sonnet is well-suited to English, which is less richly endowed than Italian with rhyming words.   
  
As with the structure of the Petrarchan sonnet, that of the Shakespearean sonnet influences the kinds of ideas that will be develop din it. For example, the three quatrains may be used to present three parallel images, with the couplet used to tie them together or to interpret their significance. Or the quatrains can offer three points in an argument, with the couplet serving to drive home the conclusion.