

WRITE YOUR OWN

Shakespearean Sonnets

*Six Visual Worksheets
to Inspire Your Writing*



Image: Gustave Courbet, *The Trellis*, 1862, courtesy of Toledo Museum of Art

WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: Weather

What do you see in this image? Write a list of words describing the physical components such as colours, shapes, objects and textures. Then look beyond the frame, with the theme in mind, to imagine the story behind this image. What is happening here and why? Use your words and ideas to compose your own Shakespearean sonnet.



A sonnet consists of 14 lines which follow an alternating rhyming scheme right up until the last two lines. The last two lines are called a couplet and they should rhyme with each other. The couplet is like the end of the story where you should bring together all the ideas you have shown in the rest of the sonnet. Most regular sonnets tend to be love poems. Shakespeare's might seem to be about love, but they are often about so much more. What will your sonnet be about?

TITLE: _____

A _____

B _____

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

G _____

NAME: _____



creative commons

Willem van de Velde the Younger (Dutch, 1633–1707), *Ships in a Stormy Sea*, 1671–72, oil on canvas, 52 1/16 x 75 9/16 inches (132.2 x 191.9 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 1977.62.



A visual literacy worksheet by The Curved House.
In partnership with Toledo Museum of Art.
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www.toledomuseum.org

WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: Time

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creative commons

Albert Bierstadt (American, 1830-1902), *El Capitan, Yosemite Valley, California, 1875*, oil on canvas, H: 32 3/16 in. (81.7 cm); W: 48 1/8 in. (122.3 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rike, 1959.18.

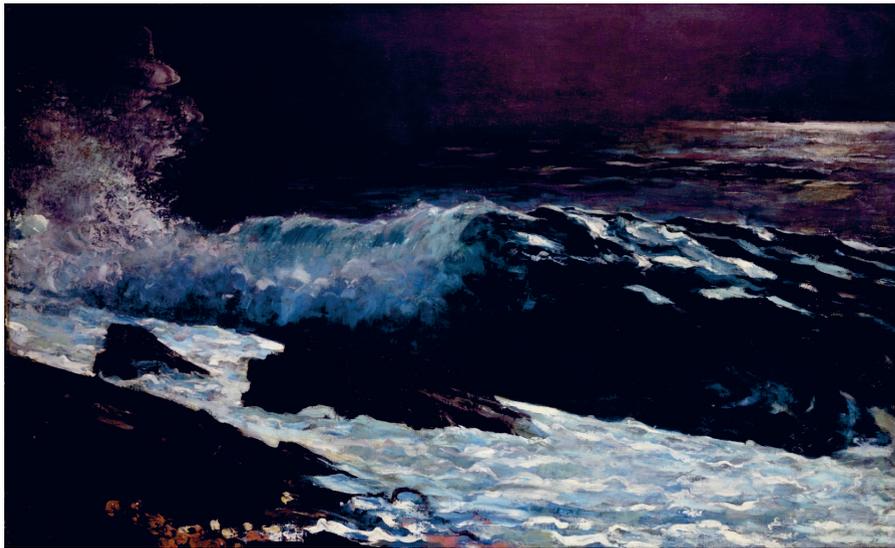


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WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: Forces

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Winslow Homer (American, 1836 – 1910), *Sunlight on the Coast*, 1890, oil on canvas, 30 ¼ x 48 ½ in. (76.9 x 123.3 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, OH), Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 1912.507.



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WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: *Friendship*

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- G _____
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John Sloan (American, 1871–1951), *Movies*, 1913, oil on canvas, 19 7/8 x 24 in. (50.5 x 61 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), Museum Purchase Fund, 1940.16.



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WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: Curiosity

What do you see in this image? Write a list of words describing the physical components such as colours, shapes, objects and textures. Then look beyond the frame, with the theme in mind, to imagine the story behind this image. What is happening here and why? Use your words and ideas to compose your own Shakespearean sonnet.



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Gustave Courbet (French, 1819 – 1877), *The Trellis*, 1862, oil on canvas, 43 ¼ x 53 ¼ in. (109.8 x 135.2 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 1950.309.



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WRITE YOUR OWN SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

Theme: *Weather*

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J.M.W. Turner (British, 1775-1851), *The Campo Santo, Venice, 1842*, oil on canvas, 24 1/2 x 36 1/2 in. (61.25 x 91.25 cm), Toledo Museum of Art (Toledo, Ohio), Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 1926.63.



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