

# Example Text: Sonnet Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

A sonnet is a poem with 14 lines, usually themed around life, death, love, nature and the seasons.

Sonnets have a **rhyming structure**. Alternate lines rhyme with one another, apart from the final two lines, which rhyme with each other. This means the final sound of each of these lines is the same. The rhyming structure can be represented by letters, like this: **ABAB CDCD EFEF GG**.

Sonnets also have a **syllable structure**; each line has ten beats or syllables. A **syllable** is a single sound - for example, 'dog' has one syllable, but 'puppy' has two syllables.

Creating rhyming poems with specific structure can be quite tricky! Take a look at the example and the features required.

1 Follow the **syllable structure** of a sonnet poem. All lines need ten syllables.

2 Follow the **line structure** of a sonnet poem by having 14 lines.

3 Group lines together into **stanzas**. In this type of poetry, usually there are three stanzas of four lines and a final stanza of two lines. Remind your child to separate stanzas with a space.

4 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 1 and 3 must rhyme (**ABAB**).

5 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 2 and 4 must rhyme with each other (**ABAB**).

## Mountains

1 Quite beautiful and very, very **high**,

2 So **scared** that I don't want to climb up **there**,

3 So high that I'll reach up and touch the **sky**,

4 Up those **steep hills** I walk, I stare, I **dare**.

5 I take a look out with my **fears** all **here**,

6 **Terrified, scared**, completely **unaware**,

7 I am part of this **land**, I shall not **fear**,

8 Climb to the top, this **feeling** I can **bear**.

5 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 5 and 7 must rhyme with each other (**CDCD**).

6 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 6 and 8 must rhyme with each other (**CDCD**).

7 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 9 and 11 must rhyme with each other (**EFEF**).

8 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 10 and 12 must rhyme with each other (**EFEF**).

9 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a sonnet poem. Lines 13 and 14 must rhyme with each other (**GG**).

10 Include information about **emotions** and **feelings** to make the reader connect with the poem.

11 Theme the poem around **love, death, nature** or the seasons and include **powerful vocabulary** related to this.

9 I wish I could learn to **trust** you  
right **now**,

10 **So lovely, so high, so steep and**  
**so still**,

11 I'm there, I did it, let me take a **bow**,

12 Forever as one, a **powerful fill**.

13 You may not have known that my  
**fear** was **strong**,

14 But I knew I could climb it all **along**.