

## Class Notes for Sonnet XVIII: (in preparation for Prologue and *Romeo and Juliet*)

- Sonnet – A poem of fourteen lines using any number of formal rhyme schemes, typically having ten syllables per line.
- Syllable – basic unit of speech, generally containing only one vowel sound.

Ex. Ba – sic

Ex. Gen-er-al-ly

- Meter – rhythm established by a poem and is dependent on the number of syllables in a line and the way they are accented (stressed and unstressed)
- Iambic Pentameter – a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (unstressed) syllable followed by one long (stressed) syllable.

Ex. toDAY to(unstressed) DAY(stressed)

### Sonnet XVIII

First two lines of sonnet explain what the poem is about - a comparison of a young man to a summer's day.

The next two lines in quatrain one, and all of the lines in quatrain two discuss all the ways a summer's day falls short.

Rough winds hurt flowers and youth  
Summer is too short  
Summer and the sun are too hot  
Clouds can block out the sun  
Beauty fades over time  
Nature and chance cannot be changed

The first three lines of quatrain three explain that the young man will not fade, nor his beauty, and death will not conquer or claim him.

The last line of quatrain four, and the last two lines in the rhyming couplet explain how - because the author (Shakespeare) has written about him in this sonnet, which in turn, gives life to the young man for eternity.