

## Rapping Shakespeare

### A) Transform one of Shakespeare's sonnets into a modern rap version.





1. Paraphrase the sonnet and sum up the theme.
2. Stroll around and practice reading your poem. Play with the tempo, the emphasis, the volume etc.
3. Set your sonnet to music. You can look for free beats on the internet or produce your own beat.
4. Record your sonnet.

### B) Create your own (pop) sonnet.

Pop sonnets are pop songs rewritten as sonnets in iambic pentameter. Here are some examples: <https://popsonnet.tumblr.com>.

1. Choose a pop song and rewrite the song as a Shakespearean sonnet **OR** write your own sonnet about a topic of your choice. Start with some key words you would like to use.
2. Set your sonnet to music. You can look for free beats online or produce your own beat.
3. Record your sonnet.

## Links

| Tool  | Link  | QR code   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Cayzland</b><br>free music and sounds  | <a href="https://www.cayzland.de">https://www.cayzland.de</a>           |  |
| <b>Rhyming Dictionaries</b>   | <a href="https://rhymmer.com">https://rhymmer.com</a>                   |  |
|   | <a href="https://rhymezone.com">https://rhymezone.com</a>               |  |
| <b>Audacity</b><br>free, open-source audio software that can be used to record your sonnet or create your own beats | <a href="https://www.audacityteam.org">https://www.audacityteam.org</a> |  |

Create your own sonnet

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# Rapping Shakespeare

## Sonnet 29

When in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone beweepe my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,  
And look upon my self and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends  
possessed,  
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least,  
Yet in these thoughts my self almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
(Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth) sings hymns at heaven's  
gate,  
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth  
brings,  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

## Annotations

**beweepe**: weep over (my outcast state); **outcast state**: The poet's "outcast state" is possibly an allusion to his lack of work as an actor due to the closing of the theatres in 1592. It also could be a reference to the attack on Shakespeare at the hands of Robert Greene.; **bootless**: useless; **Featured like him**: the features (physical beauty) of some other more attractive man.

adapted from <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/29detail.html>, 29/6/2018

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## Rapping Shakespeare

### Sonnet 130

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun,  
Coral is far more red, than her lips red,  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun:  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head:  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks,  
And in some perfumes is there more delight,  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know,  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound:  
I grant I never saw a goddess go,  
My mistress when she walks treads on the  
ground.  
And yet by heaven I think my love as rare,  
As any she belied with false compare.

### Annotations

**roses damasked, red and white:** This line is possibly an allusion to the rose known as the York and Lancaster variety, which the House of Tudor adopted as its symbol after the War of the Roses. The York and Lancaster rose is red and white streaked, symbolic of the union of the Red Rose of Lancaster and the White Rose of York.; **than the breath...reeks:** i.e., than in the breath that comes out of (reeks from) my mistress; **belied:** misrepresented; **with false compare:** by unbelievable, ridiculous comparisons.

adapted from <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/130detail.html>, 29/6/2018

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