# Popular Poetry Structures
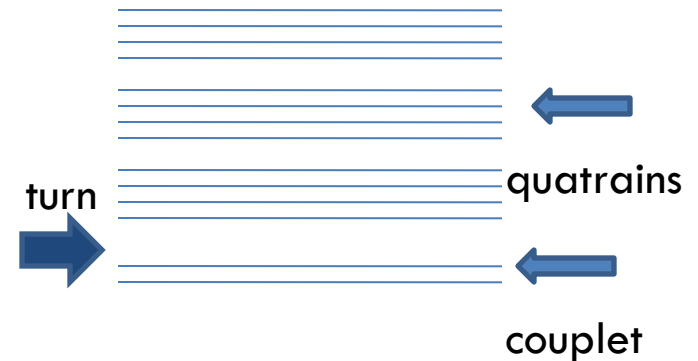
# The Sonnet

- <u>Petrarchan</u>     -or-  - <u>Italian</u>
  - Octave (8)and sestet (6)
  - Octave sets up the problem
  - Sestet solves the problem
    - This is called the turn!

octave

turn

sestet

# The Sonnet

- <u>Shakespearean</u>  -or-
  - 3 quatrains (4) & a couplet (2)
  - The quatrains intro and develop the problem/story
  - The couplet solves it
    - This is called the turn!

- <u>English</u>

turn    quatrains

couplet

# Sonnet Purpose

- Deals with metaphysical and pastoral themes in terms of basic plot

- Specific rhyme and gramatical structures lend support to the plot structure

- Allows for varying changes and plot twists

# Villanelle

## Characteristics

- 5 tercets and a quatrain
- Complete lines will be repeated throughout as a refrain
- Strict ABA and $ABA^1A^2$ rhyme scheme
- **More modern Villanelles allow slight variances

## Format by stanza

A1 b  A2

a  b  A1

a  b  A2

a  b  A1

a  b  A2

a  b  A1 A2

# Villanelle Purpose

- Based off of rustic Italian dances
- Originally focused on romantic and pastoral themes
- Allow for deeper reflection of simple ideas and conflicts

# Sestina

## Characteristics

- 6 Sestets and a tercet
  - The tercet is called an Envoi
- The same six words end each line
- The Envoi ends in 3 of the six words, with the other three used also within the lines

## Format by stanza

1 2 3 4 5 6

6 1 5 2 4 3

3 6 4 1 2 5

5 3 2 6 1 4

4 5 1 3 6 2

2 4 6 5 3 1

(6 2)(1 4)(5 3)

# Sestet Purpose

- Tells a story
- Allows for gradual change in the understanding and themes of the work
- Often in the form of a dramatic narrative