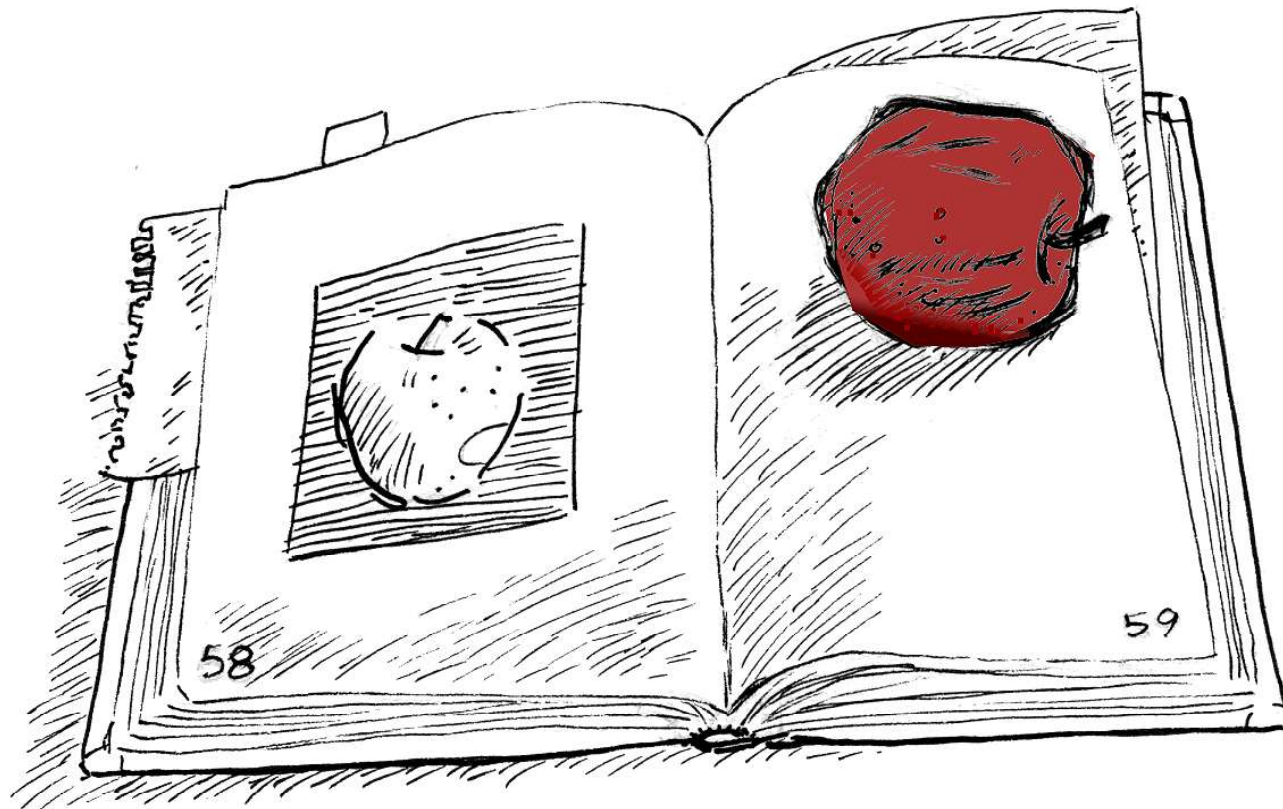


Sonnets



Sonnet Types

English or Shakespearean Sonnet

The Earl of Surrey, Henry Howard, invented what is now known as the English or Shakespearean Sonnet.*

- follows octave + sestet formula slightly
- allows for three sets of quatrains with individual rhymes
- an independent couplet, which serves as an effective “moral” to the poem
- traditionally follows iambic pentameter

* Some historians likewise give partial credit to Lord Thomas Wyatt (1503 – 11 October 1542) for introducing the sonnet concept to England; Howard however exclusively developed the rhyme scheme used in English forms of the verse.

Sonnet Types

Henry Howard (1517 – 19 January 1547)

Complaint of the Lover Disdained

In Cyprus springs, whereas Dame Venus dwelt,
A well so hot, that whoso tastes the same,
Were he of stone, as thawed ice should melt,
And kindled find his breast with fixed flame;
Whose moist poison dissolved hath my hate.
This creeping fire my cold limbs so opprest,
That in the heart that harbour'd freedom, late:
Endless despair long thraldom hath imprest.
Another so cold in frozen ice is found,
Whose chilling venom of repugnant kind,
The fervent heat doth quench of Cupid's wound,
And with the spot of change infects the mind;
 Whereof my dear hath tasted to my pain:
 My service thus is grown into disdain.

A	5	}	octave: Venus
B	5		
A	4.5		
B	4.5		
C	4.5		
D	5		
C	5		
D	5		
<hr/>			
E	5.5	}	sestet: Cupid
F	5		
E	5		
F	5		
G	5		
G	5		

Surrey, Henry Howard, Earl of. *The Poetical Works of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*.
Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1854. Print.

Sonnet Types

Henry Howard (1517 – 19 January 1547)

Description of Spring, Wherein Every Thing Renews, Save Only the Lover

The soote season, that bud and bloom forth brings,

A 5

With green hath clad the hill, and eke the vale.

B 5

The nightingale with feathers new she sings ;

A 5

The turtle to her make hath told her tale.

B 5

Summer is come, for every spray now springs,

A 5

The hart hath hung his old head on the pale;

B 5

The buck in brake his winter coat he slings ;

A 5

The fishes flete with new repaired scale ;

B 5

The adder all her slough away she slings ;

A 5

The swift swallow pursueth the fliës smale ;

B 5

The busy bee her honey now she mings ;

A 5

Winter is worn that was the flowers' bale.

B 5

And thus I see among these pleasant things

A 5

Each care decays, and yet my sorrow springs!

A 5

1. *soote*: sweet

4. *turtle*: turtledove; make: mate

6. *his olde head*: i.e. his antlers;
pale: fence post

7. *brake*: bushes

9. *sloughe*: skin

11. *minges*: mingles; mixes

12. *bale*: evil; harm; misfortune; woe;
misery; sorrow

} *volta*

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Sonnet Types

The theme of this poem is linked to a common subject for the English sonnet writers: it displays a lover-poet outcast and isolated due to his failure in love.

- **Line 1** establishes the time of year, springtime, and establishes the positive aspects of nature: soote (sweet).
 - > remember, previously Chaucer would have pronounced the word “soote” as “soot-ay”—now, this new generation of poets will drop the final “e” sound—creating the silent e in English.
 - > this new phonetic approach has been coined the Great Vowel Shift—during the late Middle English period, sometime after Chaucer’s death, the manner many words were pronounced shifted to a new sound. It is still unclear why this happened. Politics, the Black Plague, and wars with the French are all candidates for the event.
 - > furthermore, by Howard’s time, English spelling of words was becoming standardized—not to a great extent, but the process was beginning

Sonnet Types

- **Line 2** uses the word “eke”—pronounced “eek,” meaning “also.”
- **Line 4** mentions a “turtle”—whenever this word appears in Renaissance poetry, a turtle is short hand for the turtle-dove. Keep in mind meter count is controlling some aspects of the poem—in this case Howard needs a perfect **iambic pentameter** throughout.
- **Line 6 and 7** bring up similar animals: a hart and a buck: keep in mind, the term “hart” is exclusively used for a specific species called the red deer; whereas, a buck is inclusive of many species, including a male deer, male antelope, male goat, or male sheep.
- **Line 9** uses the word “slough,” pronounced as “sluff.”
- **Line 10** utilizes an inversion of the noun/adjective relationship in order to abide by the rhyme scheme.
- **Line 13** contains the **volta**.
- **Line 14** uses a different meaning for the expected meaning of the word “care”—that is, care in this case means “anxiety,” “worry,” or “concern.”

Sonnet Types

- Notice the ironic placement of the last word; a play on words is being shown. Throughout the poem, the poet-speaker never mentions the name of the actual season of the year, yet he describes in strong detail the timing, so there is no questioning his mood.
- His depression deepens as he realizes it is spring. A sad epiphany moment is shown when he realizes he is isolated in the middle of natural activity surrounding him.