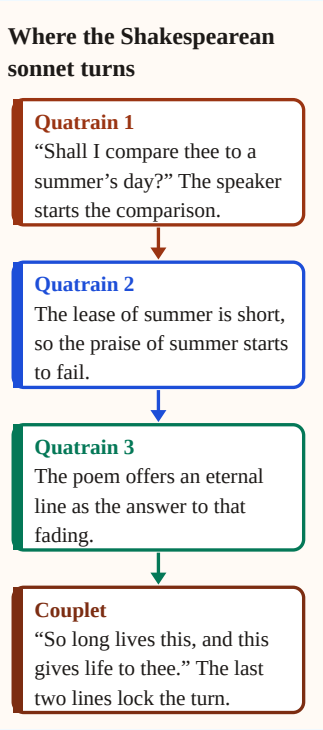
English Language Arts 10-1

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

Form and medium

One subject in three forms

- The same spare key can be a memo, a short poem, or a shot in a film. Shakespeare shapes praise as a sonnet, a fourteen-line poem. “Sonnet 18” turns in four parts you can map.
- Quatrain 1. “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” The speaker starts the comparison.
- Quatrain 2. The lease of summer is short, so the praise of summer starts to fail.
- Quatrain 3. The poem offers an eternal line as the answer to that fading.
- Couplet. “So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.” The last two lines lock the turn.



Form and medium

- Letters, memos, poems, narratives, and dramatizations are forms with different jobs.
- A Shakespearean sonnet uses three quatrains and a closing couplet; a Petrarchan sonnet uses an octave and a sestet.
- Medium means page, film, or screen, and headlines, menus, and tabs are features of those channels.

Key terms

form

The kind of text, such as a memo, a poem, a narrative, or a dramatization, with patterns readers expect.

medium

The channel that carries a text, such as a printed page, a feature film, or a web page.

Shakespearean sonnet

A 14-line poem in three quatrains and a closing couplet, a structure Shakespeare uses to turn an idea.

The sonnet and other forms

- Shakespeare, “Sonnet 18,” closes: “So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,” / “So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.”
- Those two lines are the couplet, after three quatrains have compared a beloved to a summer’s day.
- A Petrarchan sonnet would split into an octave of eight lines and a sestet of six, a different turn.

Example

- A paddler enters a rapid. A feature film can show the wide river, the music, and the paddler's body. E. Pauline Johnson's poem carries the same kind of moment in short lines: "Dip, dip," and the crash.
- The film uses image and sound. The poem uses line breaks and repeated words. Each form fits a reader who needs a different way in.

Headline and tablature practice

- The school site leads with the headline Key returned before the late bus. Under it, three tabs read Schedule, Lost items, and Contact. A grade 9 student is looking for a glove.
- Say what form or media feature each item is, and what need it meets for that student.

Review

- Text A is a letter: Dear office, I can describe the navy glove. It has a torn thumb. Text B is four short lines: torn thumb, navy wool, on the radiator, still warm.
- Name each form, one structural feature, and one audience each form fits.