

Sonnet 55 (of 154): Not marble nor the gilded monuments

By William Shakespeare

1564 - 1616

1st quatrain

Not marble nor the gilded monuments

A

Of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme,

B

But you shall shine more bright in these contents

A

Than unswept stone besmeared with sluttish time.

B

2nd quatrain

When wasteful war shall statues overturn,

C

And broils root out the work of masonry,

D

Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn

C

The living record of your memory.

D

3rd quatrain

'Gainst death and all-oblivious enmity

D

Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room

E

Even in the eyes of all posterity

D

That wear this world out to the ending doom.

E

concluding
couplet

So, till the Judgement that yourself arise,

F

You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes.

F

Use a pencil on the printed poem in the first 4 tasks.

1. Mark four quatrains, and one couplet.
2. Mark the end rhyme pattern: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
3. Mark stressed syllables with a line above and unstressed syllables with a bow, and after each foot make a vertical line.
4. Mark alliterations (bogstavrim, dvs. når den same lyd i starten af et ord kommer i flere ord tæt på hinanden).
5. Now in pairs listen to Sir Patrick Stewart's reading of the poem a couple of times.
6. Then in pairs take turns reading one line each of the Sonnet in 3 different manners:
 - a: You exaggerate the da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM of the iambic pentameter.
 - b: You read as fast as you can while still making it understandable
 - c: You read copying the tone and pronunciation of Sir Patrick Stewart (The King's English).
7. If you have time discuss what makes this poem special.