

# Italian (Petrarchan) Sonnet

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(Title)

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(a)

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(b)

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(b)

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(a)

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(a)

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(b)

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(b)

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(a)

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(c)

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(d)

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(c or e)

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(c)

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(d)

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(c or e)

An Italian sonnet (also known as a Petrarchan sonnet) is a 14 line poem that is made up of two stanzas. The first is an octave (an 8 line stanza) that is followed by a sestet (a 6 line stanza). It follows the rhyme scheme of ABBAABBA CDCCDC (or CDECDE).

## **When I Consider How My Light Is Spent by John Milton**

When I consider how my light is spent  
Ere half my days, in this dark world and  
wide,  
And that one talent which is death to hide  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul  
more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest he returning chide;  
"Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?"  
I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not  
need  
Either man's work or his own gifts; who  
best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His  
state  
Is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest:  
They also serve who only stand and wait."