

Spenserian Sonnet

(Title)

(a)

(b)

(a)

(b)

(b)

(c)

(b)

(c)

(c)

(d)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(e)

A Spenserian sonnet is a 14 line poem that is made up of 3 quatrains (4 line stanzas) followed by a couplet (2 line stanza). The rhyme scheme it follows is ABAB BCBC CDCD EE.

Edmund Spenser (c. 1552-1599)

What guile is this, that those her golden tresses
She doth attire under a net of gold;
And with sly skill so cunningly them dresses,
That which is gold or hair, may scarce be told?

Is it that men's frail eyes, which gaze too bold,
She may entangle in that golden snare;
And being caught may craftily enfold
Their weaker hearts, which are not yet well aware?

Take heed therefore, mine eyes, how ye do stare
Henceforth too rashly on that guileful net,
In which if ever ye entrapped are,
Out of her bands ye by no means shall get.

Folly it were for any being free,
To covet fetters, though they golden be.

