

Vivian lectures on this sonnet, "If poysous mineralls" by John Donne:

If poysous mineralls, and if that tree,
 Whose fruit threw death on else immortall us,
 If lecherous goats, if serpents envious horself
 Cannot be dann'd; Alas; why should I bee?
 Why should intent or reason, borne in mee,
 Make sinnes, else equall, in mee, more heinous?
 And mercy being easie, and glorious
 To God, in his sterne wrath, why threatens hee?
 But who am I, that dare dispute with thee?
 O God, Oh! of thine onely worthy blood,
 And my teares, make a heavenly Lethan flood,
 And drowne in it my sinnes blacke memorie.
 That thou remember them, some claime as debt,
 I thinke it mercy, if thou wilt forget.

95 :)

Construct your own sonnet. Tell the reader something urgent!

- 14 lines
- iambic pentameter (iambic: unstress/stress rhythm; pentameter: five "feet", of two beats each) = ten syllables per line
- rhyme scheme (= pattern) of your choice

- 1 Enjoy biology while you still can.
- 2 It may be rough at times but chem is worse.
- 3 Bad grades in chem are like a constant curse.
- 4 In sophomore year give up your college plan.
- 5 Biology class was the good ole days.
- 6 When forced to learn a new type of science,
- 7 Your response should be utter defiance,
- 8 Because you'd rather learn about lactase.
- 9 Eventually you will accept your fate.
- 10 And learn the pomatic ion.
- 11 Memorize them with a shoulder to cry on
- 12 Why do I need to know permanganate?
- 13 I wrote my poem while studying chem too.
- 14 I'm sure you see I have much more to do!

✓ perfect iambic pentameter line here

+ here!

Rhymed couplet here
(two lines that rhyme)