Sonnets

1. Definition:

1. Define iambic pentameter:
2. Rhyme scheme of Shakespearean sonnet:

Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 29” (page 275)

1. Paraphrase the first quatrain.
2. What is the speaker saying about himself in the next 4 lines?
3. Line 10 starts with the transition “yet.” What thoughts have made him despise himself?
4. This final quatrain signals a change from bemoaning his life to thinking about what? Explain.
5. The final couplet spells out the theme of this poem. Explain the realization of the speaker at the end of the poem.
6. Rhyme scheme of Petrarchan (or Italian) sonnet:
7. Personal response: One hundred years from now, what would you like to be remembered for? Explain.

Milton’s Sonnet VII (“How Soon Hath Time”) (Page 522)

1. What occasion is it as Milton writes this poem?
2. In the octave (the first 8 lines) what is Milton saying he is worried about?
3. As in Shakespeare’s sonnet, Milton begins the final sestet (6 lines) with the word “yet”, signaling a change of heart. What is Milton saying in these final lines?

Write your own sonnet: Choose either the Italian or Shakespearean format for your sonnet. Your 14 lines should have the correct rhyme scheme for your sonnet style. Don’t forget iambic pentameter! Count those syllables! (Write this on a separate sheet of paper and turn in on the due date.)