**The sonnet Form**

The sonnet is a lyrical form of poetry that speaks about intimate problems, feelings and doubts. In Europe it was first used by Francesco Petrarca in Italy. Petrarchan sonnet became the model for all future sonneteers. As the word shows the sonnet heavily relise on sound devices. Therefore in the analysis of a sonnet it’s really important to consider the level of sound that toghether with the other levels of connotation largely contributes to meaning . The sonnet form is oganized into fourteen lines. The English sonnet is the result of the gradual transformation from the Petrarchan model to the Shakesperean model which is generally called either Elisabethan sonnet because it developed during the Elizabethan age. A poet eriting a sonnet is compelled to write fourteen lines and later he or she can chooese between the Petrarchan and the Elizabethan sonnet. The best-known italian sonneteers were Dante and Petrarch . Of the two Petrarch proved most influential on the sonnet history. The privileged theme of sonnet is secular love.

**Gradual transformation of the English sonnet**

Thomas Wyatt who lived on the first half of the 16th century followed the Petrarchan model mainly translating Petrarch sonnets into English but soon poets realised that the English language wasn’t suitable to the Italian model because of the different rhythm in the two languages. Indeed, while the rhythm of the Italian language is based on the number of syllables, English rhythm is based on stresses. This made the transformation from Italian into English very difficult and Petrarchan structure didn’t prove appropriate/suitable to the English language. Therefore, Mr. Henry Howard, Earl of Surray, decided to transform and modify the structure of the sonnet. The Elizabethan structure of the sonnet was born this way. He transformed the Petrarchan model into a structure arranged into three quatrains and a rhyming couplet.

*Iambic pentameter = the most frwequently used line Pentametro Giambico = è costituito da accenti con la seguente scansione: sillaba non accentata + sillaba accentata per cinque volte*

*Modificare la struttura di un testo significa modificarne il significato*

Most of the time sonneteers belonged to the court and they adopted the courteous love code which is addressed to an idealized woman .