



English in Action

The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition

Sonnet Rubric

<u>UNDERSTANDING</u>	1	2	3	4
<i>MEANING</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - misunderstands the meaning of the poem - misunderstands the content of the poem (messages, allusions, ironies, tonal shifts, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands the general meaning of the poem (i.e. it is about love) - does not understand the content of the poem (messages, allusions, ironies, tonal shifts, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clearly understands the meaning of the poem - clearly understands the context of the poem (messages, allusions, ironies, tonal shifts, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sophisticated understanding of the meaning of the poem - detailed understanding of the context of the poem (messages, allusions, ironies, tonal shifts, etc.)
<i>LANGUAGE</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not understand certain words, metaphor or imagery in the poem. - misunderstands poetic elements (rhythm, rhyme scheme, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands most words, metaphor or imagery in the poem. - understands some poetic elements (rhythm, rhyme scheme, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understands all words, metaphor or imagery throughout the poem. - understands the poetic elements (rhythm, rhyme scheme, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excellent understanding of all words, metaphor or imagery in poem. - nuanced understanding of poetic elements (rhythm, rhyme scheme, etc.).
<u>EXPRESSION & COMMUNICATION</u>	1	2	3	4
<i>VOCAL</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocal expression unclear or ineffective (related to articulation, volume, pace, stress, etc.) - vocal choices do not reflect the poem and its structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocal expression somewhat unclear or ineffective (related to articulation, volume, pace, stress, etc.) - vocal choices somewhat reflect the poem and its structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocal expression clear and effective (related to articulation, volume, pace, stress, etc.) - vocal choices accurately reflect the poem and its structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excellent vocal expression that's clear and effective (related to articulation, volume, pace, stress, etc.) - vocal choices fully reflect the poem and its structure
<i>PHYSICAL</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical expression unclear or inappropriate (related to use of space and body movement) - physical choices overpower the poem and its language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical expression somewhat unclear or inappropriate (related to use of space and body movement) - physical choices somewhat reflect the poem and its language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical expression clear and appropriate (related to use of space and body movement) - physical choices clearly reflect the poem and its language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excellent physical expression that's clear and appropriate (related to use of space and body movement) - physical choices expertly enhance and illuminate the poem and its language
<i>OWNERSHIP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lacks confidence or poise - lacks energy - not connected to the poem - does not engage the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimal confidence or poise - has low energy - mostly connected to the poem - somewhat engages the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - confident and poised - has moderate energy - fully connected to the poem - engages the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impressive confidence and poise - performance level energy used skillfully - exceptionally connected to the poem throughout - captivates the audience.