

MOBILE UNIT

SUMMER OF JOY!

PUBLIC

WHAT'S YOUR VERSE?

In SHAKESPEARE: CALL & RESPONSE, the cast recites Shakespeare's Sonnet 29. While many of his sonnets seem to reflect on and bemoan the loss of relational love, Sonnet 29 takes a slightly different bent: Love as a soothing and powerful balm for enduring the pitfalls of life.

- A When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
- B I all alone beweeep my outcast state,
- A And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
- B And look upon myself and curse my fate,
- C Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
- D Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,
- C Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
- D With what I most enjoy contented least;
- E Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
- F Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
- E (Like to the lark at break of day arising
- F From sullen earth) sings hymns at heaven's gate;
- G For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings
- G That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

Now, it's time to write YOUR verse! We want you to write your own ending to Sonnet 29. Fill in the last two lines by thinking about how you've been able to turn your sorrows into your hope and joy!

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B I all alone beweep my outcast state,
A And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
B And look upon myself and curse my fate,
C Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
D Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,
C Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,
D With what I most enjoy contented least;
E **Yet** in these thoughts myself almost despising,
F Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
E (Like to the lark at break of day arising
F From sullen earth) sings hymns at heaven's gate;
G _____
G _____

Share your couplet with us using the hashtag #SCRWhatsYourVerse

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For the Passionate Poet...

If you really get into this you can also write your own sonnet. A sonnet is a great place to reflect and reveal our common humanity! You'll need to know the basic structure of a Shakespearean sonnet, just like Sonnet 29.

- It must consist of 14 lines. The rhyme scheme of each line alternates and is usually abab cdcd efef gg in a sonnet.
- It must be written in *iambic pentameter* which is the rhythm of the lines. They kind of feel like a heartbeat: duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH.
- It's usually divided into three *quatrains* (three sets of 4 lines). Each quatrain represents one idea.
- The *third quatrain* always leads with a twist, usually signified by a "yet" or a "but" that indicates a shift in tone and vibe leading into the ending.
- As you know, a sonnet always finishes with a *rhyming couplet* to tie the whole composition together by summarizing the main idea and leaving the reader with a new, concluding image.

Have fun and don't forget to share your couplet or your sonnet with us using the hashtag #SCRWhatsYourVerse

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