

## FESTIVAL Shakespearean Sonnet

One of the world's greatest and most famous playwrights of all time lived in England in the city of London. **William Shakespeare** was not only a playwright; he also wrote poetry. During the time of the Bubonic plague, the theatres were closed for two years because people could not safely gather in groups.

During that time, Shakespeare turned to poetry. In addition to writing long poetry, Shakespeare wrote a collection of 154 sonnets. A sonnet is a 14-line rhyming poem written with a special tempo or distinct meter called iambic pentameter. Shakespearean sonnets are written in abab, cdcd, efef, gg rhyming scheme. Each line in a sonnet is composed of 10 syllables and each alternating syllable is first unstressed and then stressed.

da DA, da DA, da DA, da DA, da DA, da DA.

This pattern (iambic pentameter) was used because it most closely resembles the natural rhythm of speech.

Use the template below to write a Shakespearean sonnet about FESTIVAL. Each blank is a missing syllable. As an example, the missing syllables are filled in on the right.

After you complete the template, can you write your own Shakespearean sonnet?

Festival is always \_\_\_ \_\_\_ fun!  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ the weekend long is art,  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ for everyone.  
Each year \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ takes part.  
Tradition lasting \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ years,  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ my favorite part,  
And one \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ hold(s) so very dear.  
FESTIVAL each year fills up my heart!  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ in Children's Hill,  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ performances I see,  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ is a thrill,  
Arts celebrated in community,  
It's always sad to see the weekend end,  
Don't worry, it will be here soon again.

Festival is always so much fun!  
Displayed and sold the weekend long is art,  
A little something here for everyone.  
Each year the whole community takes part.  
Tradition lasting fifty-seven years,  
It's hard for me to name my favorite part,  
And one so many hold so very dear.  
FESTIVAL each year fills up my heart!  
Find arts around the globe in Children's Hill,  
Music and dance performances I see,  
Discovery and learning is a thrill,  
Arts celebrated in community,  
It's always sad to see the weekend end,  
Don't worry, it will be here soon again