



SHAKESPEARE'S MONKEYS

Presented by Pam Makin

Poet in Residence April/May 2023

Adelaide City Library and Spoken Word SA

THE INFINITE MONKEY THEOREM

The Infinite Monkey Theorem states that, given typewriters and sufficient time, an infinite number of monkeys would eventually reproduce the complete works of William Shakespeare.

Among Shakespeare's published works were 154 sonnets.

WE ARE SHAKESPEARE'S MONKEYS

NIINA MARNI

*City of Adelaide tampendi, ngadlu Kaurna yertangga banbabanbalyarnendi
(inbarendi). Kaurna meyunna yaitya mattanya Womma Tarndanyako.
Parnako yailtya, parnuko tappa purruna, parnuko yerta ngadlu tampendi.
Yellaka Kaurna meyunna itto yailtya, tappa purruna, yerta kuma burro
martendi, burro warriappendi, burro tangka martulyaiendi.
Kumarta yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinthe.*

ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE

DON'T FORGET THE INTRODUCTIONS!



DOING LINES

Workshop 3:

- Sonnets - a recap
- Meter - another recap
- Rhyme - yet another recap
- Couplets to Octaves
- to Sonnets



SHAKESPEAREAN SONNETS - RECAP

For the purposes of this project, we will be speaking primarily about Shakespearean Sonnets.

There are a lot of different kinds of sonnets. Write your own however you want to.



- Meter
 - *Iambic pentameter (de DUM, de DUM, de DUM, de DUM, de DUM)*
- Rhyme
 - *End rhyming (abab cdcd efef gg)*
- Fourteen lines
 - *Three quatrains, ending with a couplet*
- Other Features
 - *A single stanza*
 - *A single idea*
 - *Volta*

IAMBIC PENTAMETER - RECAP



- March: LEFT, right, LEFT, right...
- Waltz: ONE, two, three, ONE, two, three...
- **IAMBIC PENTAMETER:** *de DUM de DUM de DUM de DUM de DUM*
- Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks (Sonnet 116)
- I love thee purely, as they turn from praise (Sonnet 43)
- I met a trav'ler from an antique land (*Ozymandias*)
- The winds that will be howling at all hours (*The World is Too Much With Us*)

RHYME - RECAP

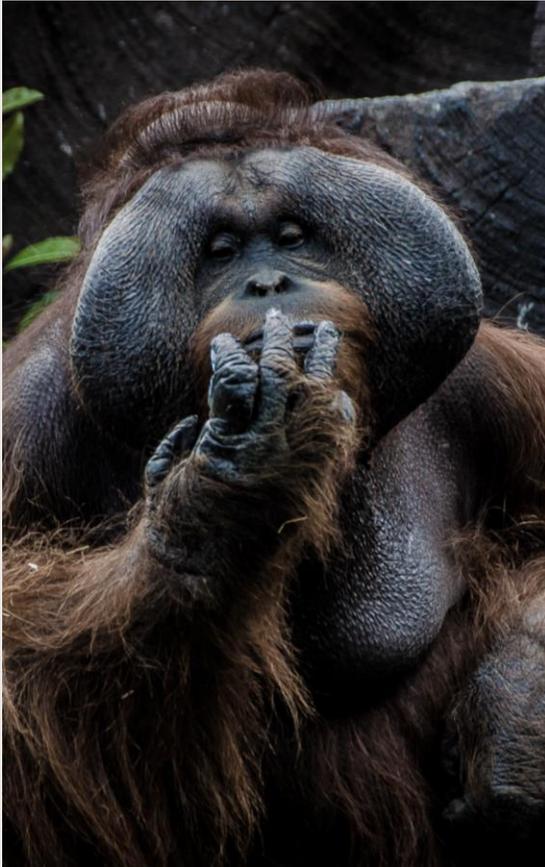


Rhyme simply means a correspondence of sound.

Rhyme includes:

- Simple rhyme – words that end with the same sound
- Slant rhyme – words that end with a similar sound
- Alliteration – repetition of initial sounds
- Assonance – repetition of vowel sounds
- Consonance – repetition of consonant sounds

2, 3, 4, 6, 8...



- 2 lines = Couplet
- 3 lines = Tercet
- 4 lines = Quatrain
- 6 lines = Sestet
- 8 lines = Octave

Shakespeare preferred:

Quatrain 4

Quatrain 4

Quatrain 4

Couplet 2

Sonnet 14

So many possible combinations.

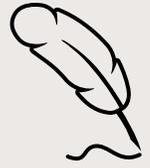
JENNIFER REESER v ROBERT FROST

Nature does not care

Nature does not care what we believe,	a
By what way we were formed, nor how we feel.	b
Look in my face, blood brother, see and grieve -	a
Or joy - that our umbilical is real.	b
I shall not draw you from the powwow dance.	c
I will not bore with silly inquiries,	d
Nor interrupt the ceremonial chants	c
By which you thrill the pretty, British tease.	d
Off in the shadows - half-lit, unobtrusive -	e
I shall remain, a sister to the smoke;	f
With changing features, childlike and elusive;	e
With chalky power you may not invoke.	f
I will not ask you how, nor what it means.	g
The answer is not learned, but in my genes.	g

Acquainted with the Night

I have been one acquainted with the night.	a
I have walked out in rain - and back in rain.	b
I have outwalked the furthest city light.	a
I have looked down the saddest city lane.	b
I have passed by the watchman on his beat	c
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.	b
I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet	c
When far away an interrupted cry	d
Came over houses from another street,	c
But not to call me back or say good-bye;	d
And further still at unearthly height,	a
One luminary clock against the sky	d
Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.	a
I have been one acquainted with the night.	a



WRITING LINES

- The aim of this activity is to produce stanzas of 2, 3, 4, 6, & 8 lines.
- You are not seeking poetic excellence, or intellectual insight.
- You are seeking short pieces, preferably of iambic pentameter, preferably with an end rhyme. But you do you. Whatever.
- Use consistent meter and line length.
- Try some different rhyme schemes.
- Your topic is: Monkeys!



BREAK



SARAH HOLLAND-BATT



Classical Allegory

To hell with what you think of me.

I've started drinking martinis at three.

I wake, I walk, I write, I sleep.

I snooze the alarm. I doze. I read.

Sometimes I listen to Nina Simone

And pity you an inch. Not often.

Mostly I think about who'll be next

now you're gone. I stay out extravagantly late.

I buy myself a new coat, oysters, peonies.

I take long baths with a flute of champagne.

In bars, I sip whisky straight. I pet

Stray cats on stoops. When it's hot

I laze around in French lingerie. Why not?

You've gone; the world hasn't stopped.

me / three

alliteration + repeated "I" beat

sleep / read

volta

bars / baths

straight / late

rhyming triplet

DIANE SEUSS

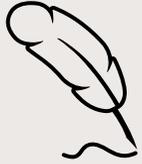


frank: sonnets

I drove all the way to Cape Disappointment but didn't
 have the energy to get out of the car. Rental. Blue Ford
 Focus. I had to stop in a semipublic place to pee
 on the ground. Just squatted there on the roadside.
 I don't know what's up with my bladder. I pee and then
 I have to pee and pee again. Instead of sightseeing
 I climbed into the back seat of the car and took a nap.
 I'm a little like Frank O'Hara without the handsome
 nose and penis and the New York School and Larry
 Rivers. Paid for a day pass at Cape Disappointment
 thinking hard about that long drop from the lighthouse
 to the sea. Thought about going into the Ocean
 Medical Center for a check-up but how do I explain
 this restless search for beauty or relief?

volta

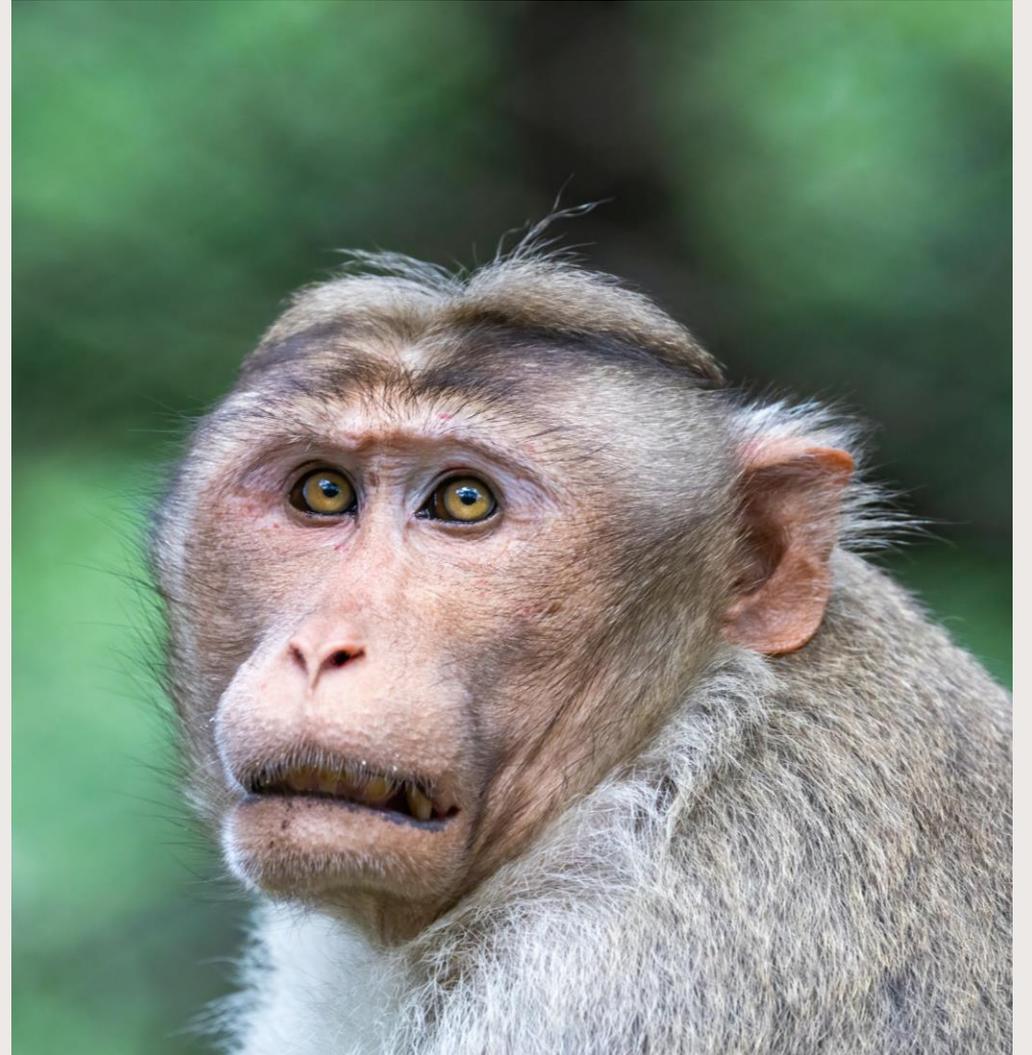
FOURTEEN IS THE MAGIC NUMBER



Gather all your lines, couplets, tercets, quatrains, sestets, and octaves. It's time to make sonnets!

Fourteen lines. That's the aim.

GO!



THERE'S STILL MORE!

Drop In

What might the Bard have thought of a sonnet in a pocket-sized zine? I think he would have approved.

You are welcome to join me for an hour of zine making. Bring your sonnets and make your own.

Sunday 7 May 2023

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Showcase

One poet the resources of a whole library and your help and should be able to produce a few original sonnets!

You are invited to attend (and/or participate in) a public showcase of the achievements of Shakespeare's Monkeys.

Sunday 7 May 2023

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

If you have attended any of the three workshops, you are encouraged to read one of your pieces at the showcase. Please!

AND SOME SPOKEN WORD FUN

Vogon Poetry Night – Bring Your Worst!

- Towel Day – 25 May, 7:00 PM
- Mixed Creative, 32 Nile St, Port Adelaide
- \$8 Admission



Game On! A Game Themed Poetry Slam

- 8 June, 6:30 PM
- The Jade, Flinders St, Adelaide
- \$10 Admission

More details at spokenwordsa.com.au

or follow Spoken Word SA – South Australia on Facebook

JUST ONE MORE THING!

A series of writing workshops open to anyone who wants to creatively explore family or personal history through poetry.

The emphasis is on writing poems that follow the natural rhythms of speech (free verse) and are built on sensory observations: colour, texture, shape, scent, sound, taste and touch.

Working from a photograph, a treasured object, piece of clothing or simply your memory, these workshops will help you shape poems within the framework of your own personal history.

Minor Works Building – 22 Stamford Ct Fridays 12 & 19 May 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

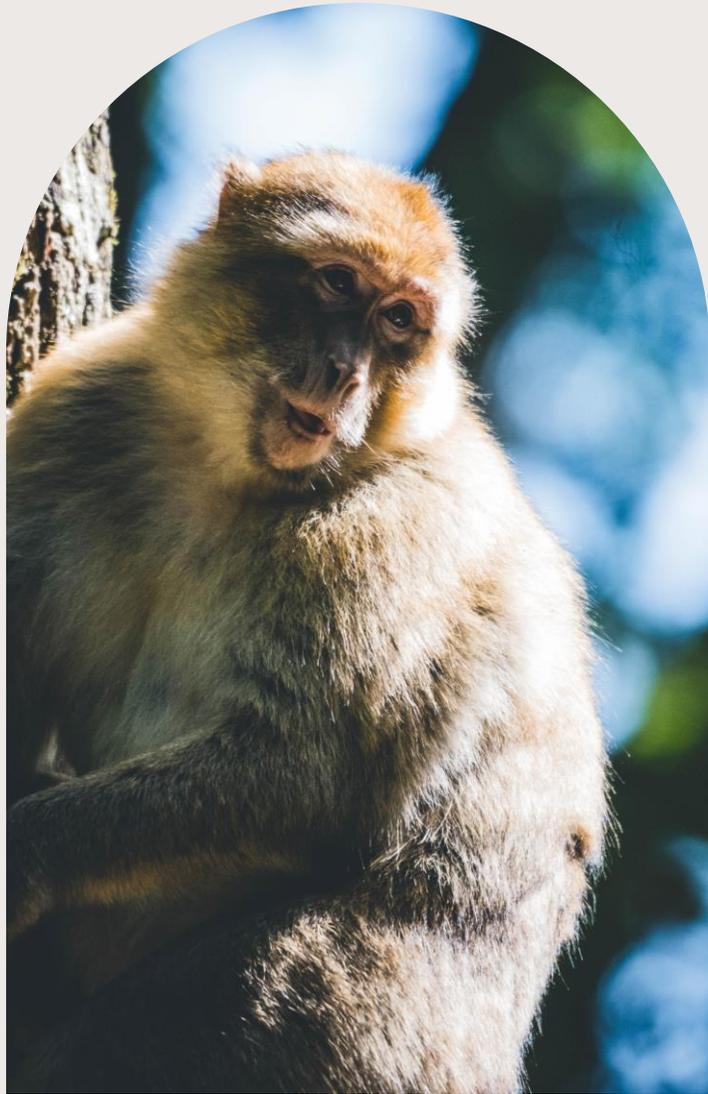
OR: A one-off workshop right here at

ADELAIDE CITY LIBRARY

Saturday 6 May 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Book online





THANK YOU

pammakin.com.au

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Photos by Unsplash

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