



# 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

# SOME POEMS RHYME

## Workshop 2:

- Sonnets - a recap
- Meter - another recap
- Rhyme
- Coupling
- Rhyme Schemes
- Couplet 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*
- Fourteen lines
  - *Three quatrains, ending with a couplet*
- Other Features
  - *A single stanza*
  - *A single idea*
  - *Volta*

# IAMBIC PENTAMETER - RECAP



- Meter is the rhythmic repetition of stressed sounds
- Each group of sounds, containing one stressed sound, is a foot
- 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)

# RHYME



Most poems “rhyme” even the ones you don’t think rhyme. (*What?*)

Rhyme simply means a correspondence of sound.

Rhyme includes:

- Masculine rhyme
- Feminine rhyme
- Triple rhyme

But also:

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance

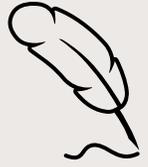
**Slant rhymes** are rhymes where the sound is similar by not identical.

Assonance and consonance are often features of slant rhymes.

## SOME QUALITY RHYMERS

- Shakespeare, of course.  
*(Sonnet 18)*
- Omar Musa *(Capital Letters)*
- Tim Minchin *(When I Grow Up)*
- Nirvana *(Smells Like Teen Spirit)*



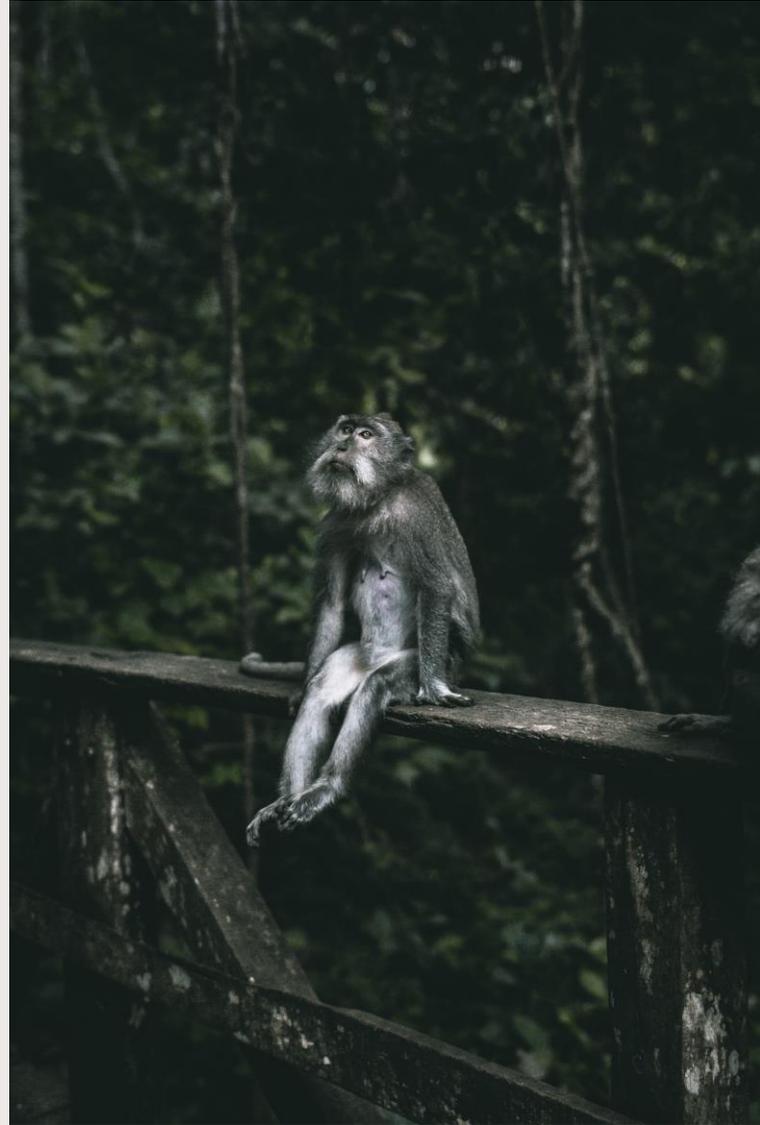


## COUPLING

- The aim of this activity is to produce rhyming couplets.
- You are not seeking poetic excellence, or intellectual insight.
- You are seeking two lines, preferably of iambic pentameter, with an end rhyme.
- Work in groups, pairs, or alone.
- Either way, help each other with rhyme suggestions.



# BREAK



# PATTERNS AND CODES



The pattern of rhyming in a poem is called the RHYME SCHEME and it is annotated using letters.

*aa* – a rhyming couplet, or two lines that rhyme with other

*abab* – a cross-rhymed quatrain, or four lines with alternating rhyme

The letters run through each new rhyme. If a rhyme is to be repeated, the letter is repeated:

*abbaabbacddccd* – a Petrarchan sonnet (Yikes!)

*ababcdcdefefgg* – a Shakespearean sonnet (Double Yikes!)

# COUPLET SONNETS

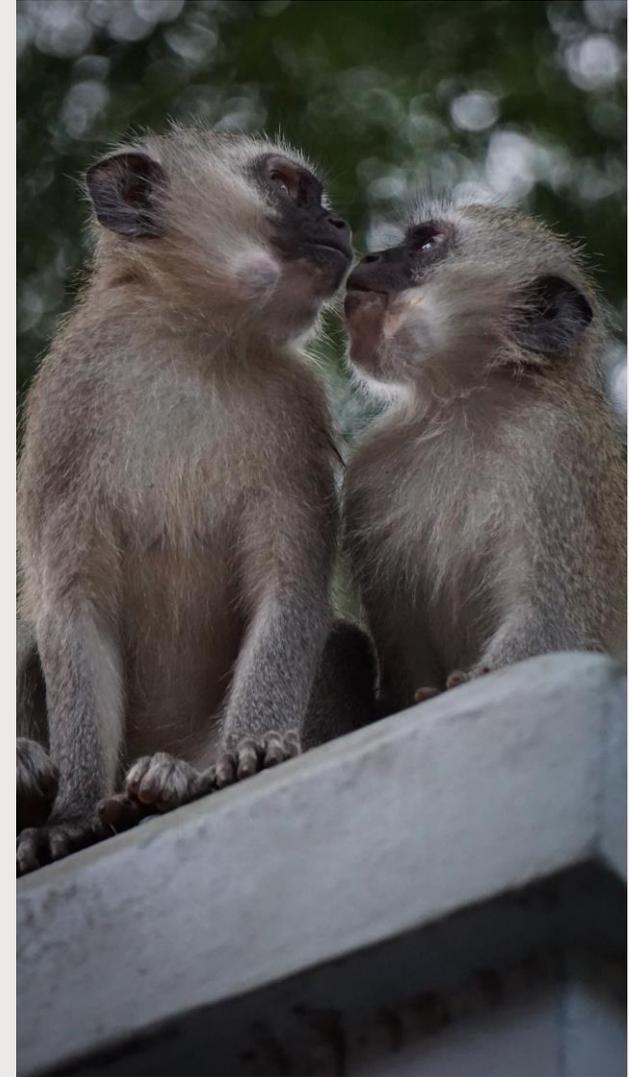


- Put your couplets together to form a sonnet.
- You can keep your couplets together, or split them to make other rhyme schemes.

Couplet sonnet rhyme scheme:

*aa bb cc dd ee ff gg*

*(7 couplets)*



# THERE'S MORE!

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## Workshop 3: Doing Lines

*Guaranteed to be more interesting than doing lines at school, we will look at groups of two, three, four, and six lines. Unlike school, we stop at fourteen!*

This workshop will focus on how lines of poetry are put together in couplets, tercets, quatrains and sestets, and how these are in turn used to form a sonnet.

**Saturday 29 April 2023**

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

## Drop In and Showcase

*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, turning our sonnets into tiny publications. This will be followed by a showcase of the achievements of Shakespeare's Monkeys.

**Sunday 7 May 2023**

Drop in 12:00 PM, then Showcase at 1:00 PM



# THANK YOU

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