



SHAKESPEARE'S MONKEYS

Presented by Pam Makin

Poet in Residence April/May 2023

Adelaide City Library and Spoken Word SA

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

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

WHY SONNETS?

- Traditional. Everyone can quote at least a line or two of a sonnet – even if they don't know it's a sonnet they're quoting!
- Modern. Sonnets have been written for hundreds of years – they come and go as fashion dictates. There seems to be a resurgence recently.
- Short! Perfect for a modern attention span, zines, TikTok...



ANATOMY OF A SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

For the purposes of this project, we looked at only Shakespearean Sonnets.

There are a lot of different kinds of sonnets.



- 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 (three lots of fours lines, plus two lines at the end.)*
- Other Features
 - *A single stanza (all one block of verse)*
 - *A single idea*
 - *Volta (turning point)*

DAY 1

Saturday 22 April 2023

The mission: to create interest in iambic pentameter! Woo!

- Morning Drop In - two hours, two volunteer monkeys, 24 lines of iambic pentameter produced!
- Afternoon Workshop - two hours, five monkeys, two complete blank verse sonnets and countless lines of iambic pentameter.



DAY 2

Wednesday 26 April 2023

The mission: Coupling. To turn single lines written on Day 1 into rhyming couplets.

- Morning Drop In - two hours, three volunteer monkeys, 24 rhyming couplets produced!
- Afternoon Workshop - two hours, seven monkeys, four complete sonnets in rhyming couplets and some yet to be completed.



DAY 3

Saturday 29 April 2023

The mission: To look at some 20th and 21st century sonnets, and play with different structures to build sonnets.

- Morning Drop In - two hours, two volunteer monkeys, two sonnets produced (using news headlines as prompts).
- Afternoon Workshop - two hours, two monkeys, two collaborative sonnets on the topic of “Monkeys.”



DAY 4

Sunday 7 May 2023 – TODAY!

The mission: To make some zines and show all of you what Shakespeare's Monkeys did.

- Drop In – zine making.
- Showcase – THIS!



THANK YOU, SPOKEN WORD SA

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

THANK YOU, ADELAIDE CITY LIBRARY



Sydney Writers' Festival – Live and Local 2023

- 25 – 28 June, during library hours
- Here – Studio 1
- Free Admission

More details at experienceadelaide.com.au
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