

The Rules of Sonnets

A How heavy do I journey on the *way*,

B When what I seek – my weary travel's *end* –

A Doth teach that ease and that repose to *say*,

B 'Thus far the miles are measur'd from thy *friend!*'

C The beast that bears me, tired with my *woe*,

D plods dully on, to bear that weight in *me*,

C As if by some instinct the wretch did *know*

D His rider lov'd not speed, being made from *thee*:

E The bloody spur cannot provoke him *on*

F That sometimes anger thrusts into his *hide*;

E Which heavily he answers with a *groan*,

F More sharp to me than spurring to his *side*;

G For that same groan doth put this in my *mind*,

G My grief lies onward, and my joy *behind*.¹

Iambic Pentameter: The style that sonnets are commonly written. Each line consists of five iambic feet, meaning that each line includes ten syllables and has the following stress style to it:

da-DUM/ da-DUM/ da-DUM/ da-DUM/ da-DUM/