

Renaissance:

The historical background

1. It's a period after middle ages.
2. It began in Italy in 14th century, and continued in west Europe in 15th and 16th centuries finally reached England in 16th century.
3. The arts of architecture, painting, sculpture and literature developed through this period.

The ideology of this period

1. It's the birth of modern era.
2. It's the ashes of Dark Age.
3. It's the period of discovering (man. Word).
4. It's the age of individualism.

Jacobean age:

1. It's a period of King James (Jacob in Latin).
2. It's a period of prose writing of Bacon, Donne's, sermons, King James the translation of the bible.
3. It's a period of Shakespeare's tragedies and tragic-comedies.
4. The major writer of this period (Ben Jonson, John Dryden and Donne).

Elizabethan age:

Problems:

1. She came to the throne by age of 25.
2. She became queen in a difficult time because:
 - a. War with France.
 - b. Empty treasury.
 - c. Heavy taxes.
 - d. Great deal of poverty.

Solutions (The Features)

1. She made peace with France.
2. In religious matters, she allied with Protestants, but she tried to unite English people within one church.
3. She allowed Protestants refugees to carry their trades.
4. She encouraged sea voyages for finding new lands and works for English men.

Sonnet: It's a lyric of stanza form, consists of fourteen iambic pentameter lines.

Lyric: It's originally a song, and it's often expresses the poet's feeling and thoughts.

Blank Verse: It's five foot iambic unrhymed verse, it was used by poet playwrights of Elizabethan age.

Types of Sonnets:

1. Italian or Petrarchan sonnet: It's divided by a pause into Octave and Sestet.
Octave: consists of two quatrains rhyming (abba, abba)
Sestet: consists of one tercet rhyming (cd cd cd or cde cde)
2. English or Shakespearean sonnet: consists of three quatrains and a concluding couplet rhyming (abab, bcbc, efef, gg).
3. Link Sonnet: It's called link because it links Octave and Sestet and concluding with uninterdependent rhymed couplet, the rhymes scheme is (abab bcba cdcd ee).
4. Miltonic Sonnet: It has Italian scheme, but there is no significant break in meaning between Octave and Sestet.

What is Sonnet: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It's a lyric of stanza form2. It's a 14 lines3. It's iambic4. It's rhymed	What is lyric: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It's a song2. It expresses poet's feeling and thoughts
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Sonnet Sequence: It's a collection of sonnets with the same theme, it's originated by Sir Philip Sidney.

The difference between Shakespearean & Renaissance Sonnets: Shakespeare describes his beloved in a real way without exaggeration, but in Renaissance the beloved is described with exaggeration and the women idealized.

Courtly love:

1. It deals with the topic of medieval literature (Poetry).
2. Its chivalric and a product of 12th century in France.
3. The women of this love is idealized (pure, sinless, angelical) whose love enables the lover to think about:
 - a. Mind unification.
 - b. Body unification.
 - c. This love ought not to be apparent.

Predominant Themes of Renaissance

1. Courtly love tradition: this expression is very popular. The poets usually deal with the theme of love. In this kind of love, the lover is always deserted and suffered from the carelessness of his beloved, that is why we find him in a critical situation, belittling himself and begging to come back. With this features we have some other related themes such as humility, and infidelity of the mistress and idealization.
2. The theme of time: time in Renaissance as a theme undergoes a twofold treatment, the first one can be seen in the idea of Carpediem (In which the poet focuses on the idea that time is passing and man needs to make use of it. It deals with time as a source of pleasure). The other treatment of time can be seen more positively in the fact that time should be used for gaining experience in life and it deals with time for the sake teaching and instruction.