Poetry Study

Day 21
October 17\textsuperscript{th}

• Daily Description: Describe an object that you have strong feelings for. (An evocative object – one that evokes or brings up strong emotions)

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Jessie Redmon Fauset
  – Gwendolyn Bennett
  – Sonnets
Today’s Objectives

• I will know details about Jessie Redmon Fauset and Gwendolyn Bennet and their contributions to the Harlem Renaissance.

• I will be able to write my own sonnets.
Jessie Redmon Fauset
1882-1961
Historian David Levering Lewis

• Jessie Redmon Fauset's influence on the Harlem Renaissance "was probably unequalled. . . . There is no telling what she would have done had she been a man, given her first-rate mind and formidable efficiency at any task."
Gwendolyn Bennett
1902-1981
The Sonnet

- The term sonnet is from the Provencal word sonet and the Italian word sonetto, both meaning “little song”
- Sonnets usually express the feelings of the heart or describe what one loves/wants
- By the thirteenth century, the sonnet had come to signify a poem of 14 lines that follows a strict rhyme scheme and logical structure
There are three different types of sonnets

- **Petrarchan (Italian) Sonnet**
  - Named after Francesco Petrarch, an Italian poet from the 14th century

- **Shakespearean (English) Sonnet**
  - Created by Henry Howard in the 16th century
  - Made famous by Shakespeare

- **The Modern (American) Sonnet**
  - Often written only following the 14 line rule with a structured rhyme scheme
## Characteristics of Sonnets

### Petrarchan
- Love at first sight
- Unattainable object or love; unfulfilled love
- Lady is ideally beautiful
- Love as idolatry
- Oxymorons to describe suffering of lover
- Poet acknowledges self as author
- Rhyme scheme
- Strict adherence to form

### Shakespearean
- Rhyme and stanza scheme
- More realistic attitudes towards beauty and love
- Undoing of Petrarchan notions of beauty
- The form consists of 3 quatrains and a couplet
- Couplet introduces an unexpected turn (a volta)
- Written in iambic Pentameter
Characteristics of Sonnets

**Petrarchan**
- **Form**
  - Octave
    - rhyme scheme ABBAABBA
  - Sestet
    - rhyme scheme CDECDE or CDCDCD or CDCDEE

**Shakespearean**
- **Form**
  - Quatrain
    - rhyme scheme ABAB
  - Quatrain
    - rhyme scheme CDCD
  - Quatrain
    - rhyme scheme EFEF
  - Couplet
    - rhyme scheme GG
Assignment

• Write a sonnet
  – Follow the format of the basic sonnet
    • 14 lines
    • Structured rhyme (label your rhyme scheme)
    • Express the feelings of the heart or describe what one loves/wants
Poems due Next Time:

• Senses poem - write a poem in which you incorporate imagery from all five senses.
• Truth poem - write a poem in which you explain something you know for sure.
• Poem of longing - write a poem about something or someone you wish to see/visit/experience.
• Love poems - write three different types of love poems.
• Anthem - write a poem of praise and solidarity for a group to which you belong.
• Sonnet - write a 14 line poem with a specific rhyme scheme.