

## **"SINCE THERE'S NO HELP" BY MICHAEL DRAYTON**

An **English sonnet**, or **Shakespearean sonnet**, uses the following conventions:

- 14 lines
- written in iambic pentameter
- abab cdcd efef gg rhyme scheme

Sonnets are famously used to explore the theme of love. Michael Drayton's "Since There's No Help" is a fun twist on the form in that it describes the speaker's feelings about *ending* a relationship instead of professing his unflagging love; in effect, it's a breakup letter written in sonnet form.

**Directions:** Read "Since There's No Help." Mark the rhyme scheme and scan the lines for the meter. (The first two lines have been done for you.) When you are finished, reread the poem and translate it into your own words.

<b>"Since There's No Help" by Michael Drayton</b>	<b>Rhyme</b>	<b>Translation</b>
- / - / - / - / - / Since there's no help, come let us kiss and part.	a	<i>Since our relationship is unsavable, let's just kiss goodbye and call it a day.</i>
- / - / - / - / Nay, I have done, you get no more of me;	b	<i>Actually, no, you get no more kisses from me.</i>
And I am glad, yea glad with all my heart,		
That thus so cleanly I myself can free.		
Shake hands forever, cancel all our vows,		
And when we meet at any time again,		
Be it not seen in either of our brows		
That we one jot of former love retain.		
Now at the last gasp of Love's latest breath,		
When, his pulse failing, Passion speechless lies;		
When Faith is kneeling by his bed of death,		
And innocence is closing up his eyes—		
Now, if thou wouldst, when all have given him over,		
From death to life thou might'st him yet recover!		



