*Love in* A Midsummer Night’s Dream, (get it?)

Act 3 in the play further develops some of the humorous love stories taking place like Titania & Bottom, and the tangled “love-web” of the four young lovers. There is a line in the play spoken by Puck that goes, *“What fools these mortals be,”* referring to the crazy behaviours of the young lovers. As a class, we will be looking at these “love-based themes” in the form of a writing assignment…but not a typical writing assignment. Instead of a traditional paragraph, your written response will be modeled after Shakespeare himself in the form of a Shakespearean Sonnet. Before you start to panic, here are some things you need to know about traditional sonnets, and my expectations for your sonnet.

* A sonnet is traditionally 14 lines long – **your sonnet will be 14 lines long (typed)**
* Sonnets are generally written in Iambic Pentameter – 10 syllables with an unstressed/stressed rhythm. **I expect your sonnet to be written in 10 syllable lines, but I’m not worried about the stress patterns. Remember that the end of a line doesn’t have to be the end of a sentence.**
* Traditional sonnets follow a rhymed pattern of a-b a-b, c-d c-d, e-f e-f, g-g (example on back of this page). I encourage you to try and rhyme your sonnet, but for this assignment it **DOESN’T HAVE TO RHYME. 14 lines of unrhymed verse will be acceptable.**
* Additionally, your sonnet can (and probably should) be written in present day English, although if you would like to take a shot at Olde English, let me know and I will try to help.
* **For your sonnet, respond to one of the 4 ideas listed below**.

1. What happens to us when we fall in love? What crazy, foolish things do “lovestruck” people do? Use examples to support your answer.
2. Do you believe in notions like “love at first sight,” “fate,” or the idea of “one true love?” Explain your answer and use examples as much as possible.
3. As Puck, write an advice/opinion column to all the “foolish mortals” out there, cautioning them on the dangerous and crazy things that young lovers do.
4. Compare and contrast the romantic and realistic sides of love or marriage. Use examples to support your points

Although this is not a paragraph writing assignment, it still needs to be organized appropriately. This means that your first line should still act as some kind of topic sentence or intro, and your last line or two should be an appropriate closing or ending to your discussion.

You will be marked based on the Alberta Ed, Rubric: Organization, Content, Vocab, Sentences, Mechanics, (5 mks each), with an additional 5 marks for the proper structuring of your sonnet.

Shakespeare’s Sonnet #116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds (a)  
Admit impediments, love is not love (b)\*  
Which alters when it alteration finds, (a)  
Or bends with the remover to remove. (b)\*  
O no, it is an ever fixéd mark (c)\*\*  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken; (d)\*\*\*  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark, (c)\*\*  
Whose worth's unknown although his height be taken. (d)\*\*\*  
Love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks (e)  
Within his bending sickle's compass come, (f)\*  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, (e)  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom: (f)\*

If this be error and upon me proved, (g)\*

I never writ, nor no man ever loved. (g)\*

TRANSLATION

I would not admit that anything could interfere with the union of two people who love each other. Love that alters with changing circumstances is not love, nor if it bends from its firm state when someone tries to destroy it. Oh no, it's an eternally fixed point that watches storms but is never itself shaken by them. It is the star by which every lost ship can be guided: one can calculate it's distance but not gauge its quality. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't alter as the days and weeks go by but endures until death. If I'm wrong about this then I've never written anything and no man has ever loved.