

The Italian sonnet is divided into two parts: the first part is composed of eight lines and is called the octave. Here is an example of Italian sonnet as used by John Keats (1795–1821):

On first looking Into Chapman's Homer
 Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold,
 And many a tedious state and kingdom
 seen;
 Round many western islands have I been
 Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold
 Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
 That deep-brow'd Homer ruled as his demesne:
 Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
 'Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold
 Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
 When a new planet swims into his ken;
 Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
 He star'd at the Pacific – and all his men
 Looked at each other with a wild surmise –
 Silent upon a peak in Darien.

The octave rhymes abba, abba and may be composed of eight run-on lines or two quatrains. The octave states the main idea or problem or theme of the poem; the sestet provides an answer or resolution and bring the matter to a conclusion. At the end of the octave there is a pause known as the 'turn' or 'volta'. In any of these patterns: cde, cde, cdc, cdc... The second part is composed of the last six lines and is called the sestet. The sestet rhymes