

English 442 Exercise Two Shakespeare in Code: Sonnet Conversion

Part 2: Part and Whole

The Aim This time we're going to get a little more specific and structured. Last time, your objects conveyed a kind of impressionistic version of the sonnet, focusing chiefly on imagery (logically, given that we're representing using visual objects). This time, you're going to go through the project line-by-line, and come up with an object made of precisely 14 parts, that shows how the poem is *structured*.

Once you've gotten all 14 pieces, the trick will be to put them back together in a way that doesn't just explicate each line, but also shows how the whole is put together, i.e. shows how the poem doesn't make sense as individual fragments unless you actually read the whole thing.

The Text Sonnet #14 from Shakespeare:

01 Not from the stars do I my judgement pluck,
02 And yet methinks I have astronomy,
03 But not to tell of good, or evil luck,
04 Of plagues, of dearths, or seasons' quality,
05 Nor can I fortune to brief minutes tell;
06 Pointing to each his thunder, rain and wind,
07 Or say with princes if it shall go well
08 By oft predict that I in heaven find.
09 But from thine eyes my knowledge I derive,
10 And constant stars in them I read such art
11 As truth and beauty shall together thrive
12 If from thy self, to store thou wouldst convert:
13 Or else of thee this I prognosticate,
14 Thy end is truth's and beauty's doom and date.

Task Step 1: The "input" setup. All together:
Input

- Reread the poem and look at how it's built:
- You could concentrate on the patterns that make it a sonnet.
- Or, you could show how the lines relate to each other (but, nor, yet, etc).
- For added difficulty, you could try combining both of these structures.

Task Step 2: Come up with the "output" solution yourselves, in pairs.
Output

- Decide on how you're going to construct 14 parts, one for each line.
- Decide on how you're going to combine those 14 parts back together in a way that conveys how the poem is put together.
- You'll have the next three weeks to work on this exercise.

Next Week & Following Bring in all your materials and start creating and assembling your object.