OLLI Assignment 5: Petrarchan Sonnet

You all are wonderful poets! Believe me. You underestimate yourselves. I love the poems that you read!

Here’s the next assignment/challenge. Write ***a Petrarchan sonnet***, the theme of which is left up to you—as it relates to ***food*, *travel, or cooking***.

Petrarch is considered the father of the sonnetto or “little song” which is what sonnet means in Italian.

Again, there can only be 14 lines. The format is a little different in that the first eight (8) lines, known as the ***octave***, should create an argument/problem of some sort. Once again, somewhere between the eighth and tenth line, a ***turn*** in subject should occur.

The last six lines, known as the ***sestet***, should provide a solution or resolution of some sort.

The syllable count assigned, once again, is no less than twelve (12) and no more than fourteen (14) syllables. Try to use syllables that are not polysyllabic; in another words one that have more than four or five syllables. Listen for the music (the heartbeat) of the poem.

Think of the rhythm in this way:

ta-**Tum**/ta-**Tum**/ta-**Tum**/ta-**Tum**/ta-**Tum**/ta/**Tum**/ta-**Tum**

Feel free to tap it out on your desk, chest, a drum, anything that will aid you in creating a sense of consistent rhythm.

Be sure to separate the first eight lines from the last six lines. In other words, create a stanza break between the first eight lines and last six lines by double-spacing after the first eight lines.

Here’s the rhyme scheme:

**First eight (8) lines**

**A—Cat**

**B—Dog**

**B—Log**

**A—Bat**

**A—Sat**

**B--Bog**

**B—Mat**

**A—Cog**

**Last six ((6) lines**

**C—Wish**

**D—Clean**

**C—Dish**

**D—Dean**

**E—Black**

**E---Back**

**Feel free to e-mail me at** [**Marva.Nelson@gmail.com**](mailto:Marva.Nelson@gmail.com) **if you any questions. Thanks and have a great weekend!**

**Also, here is an alternative rhyme scheme for the last six (6) lines:**

**C—Miss**

**D—Dance**

**D—Glance**

**C--Kiss**

**E—Egg**

**E—Leg**