



QUATRAIN

No longer mourn for me when I am dead	a
Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell ,	b
Give warning to the world that I am fled	a
From this vile world, with vilest worms to dwell :	b

QUATRAIN

Nay, if you read this line, remember not	c
The hand that writ it; for I love you so	d
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot	c
If thinking on me then should make you woe .	d

QUATRAIN

O, if, I say, you look upon this verse	e
When I perhaps compounded am with clay ,	f
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse .	e
But let your love even with my life decay ,	f

COUPLET

Lest the wise world should look into your moan	g
And mock you with me after I am gone .	g

Stopped consonants capture the cruelty.

We do see some alliteration: *surly sullen, wise world, compounded clay*.
 We see some reverse rhyme in *world* and *worms*. Notice the assonance of *worms* and *verse-rehearse*, and the way this is reversed by the word *surly*.
 We also see assonance in *should look* in the couplet.

What do you think Shakespeare intended by his alliterated reference to the “wise world” in line thirteen? Suddenly in the couplet, Shakespeare uses harsh sounds to describe the wise world, that will *look* and *mock* (half rhyme). Why?