**Practice With Sonnets**

*Using your class notes about sonnets, complete the following tasks and answer the following questions about this sonnet by Edna St. Vincent Millay.*

Love is not all: it is not meat nor drink

Nor slumber nor a roof against the rain;

Nor yet a floating spar to men that sink

And rise and sink and rise and sink again;

Love can not fill the thickened lung with breath,

Nor clean the blood, nor set the fractured bone;

Yet many a man is making friends with death

Even as I speak, for lack of love alone.

It well may be that in a difficult hour,

Pinned down by pain and moaning for release,

Or nagged by want past resolution’s power,

I might be driven to sell your love for peace,

Or trade the memory of this night for food.

It well may be. I do not think I would.

*Edna St. Vincent Millay 1931*

1)      Is this a Shakespearean or an Italian (Petrarchan) sonnet? How can you tell?

2)      Label the rhyme scheme on the poem above (there should be a letter next to every line.)

3)      Read these two lines of the poem. They are written in iambic pentameter. Mark the syllable breaks and the stressed and unstressed syllables on the lines.

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4)      Look at the poem again. Underline and label two lines that contain a *caesura*.

5)      Write your own line of poetry in iambic pentameter.

6)      In the first six lines of the poem the poet provides evidence that “love is not all.” What seeming irony does she point out in lines 7-8?

7)      In lines 9-13, the poet lists the things she might be willing to trade love for. What is her final conclusion in line 14? What do you think the theme of the poem might be?