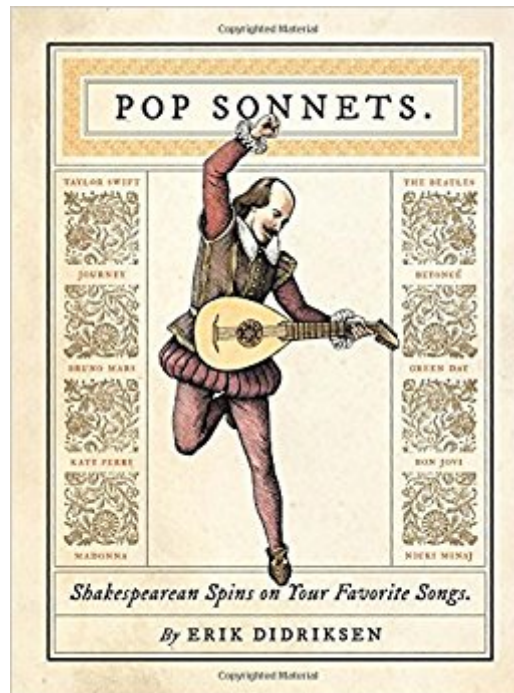




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# Pop Sonnets: Shakespearean Spins On Your Favorite Songs



## Synopsis

The Bard meets the Backstreet Boys in *Pop Sonnets*, a collection of 100 classic pop songs reimagined as Shakespearean sonnets. All of your favorite artists are represented in these pages--from Bon Jovi and Green Day to Miley Cyrus, Beyoncé, and beyond. Already a smash sensation on the Internet--the Tumblr page has 50,000+ followers--*Pop Sonnets* has been featured by the A.V. Club, BuzzFeed, and Vanity Fair, among many others. More than half of these pop sonnets are exclusive to this collection and have never been published in any form.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“One of the very best collections of pop songs written in the style of William Shakespeare that I’ve read so far this year!”  
“Weird Al • Yankovic’s *Pop Sonnets* is one of the absolute best of the disreputable breed of impulse-buy humor books. Didriksen brings an authentic dedication to craft and a lively sense of humor to this highly specific project.”  
“NPR”  
“This is a must-have for literary buffs and music fans alike.”  
“Paste magazine”  
“Smart and funny...Any reader who is intrigued by this concept will enjoy its fantastically skilled execution.”  
“Library Journal”  
“This book is made for drinking games or could moonlight as a pub quiz helper, and a well-loved teaching resource.”  
“Monsters & Critics”  
“To put it mildly, this is a terrific feat of will and intellect.”  
“Pop Matters”  
“Ingenious is the key word here.”  
“Free Lance-Star

Erik Didriksen is a software engineer, musician, sonneteer, and trivia enthusiast. He lives in Astoria, New York.

I preordered this as a birthday present to myself. I was so excited that I opened it the day it arrived - almost two weeks early. I've never been so happy to lack willpower! Erik Didriksen is a master wordsmith. Every page is beautiful, witty, and reverent. He does not mock, à la Tom Lehrer or Paul and Storm, but rather delivers brilliant and respectful homages. He manages to strike the perfect balance between new verse and clear references. There's a sonnet for every mood. Feeling nostalgic? There's Alice's Restaurant, House of the Rising Sun, or Mrs. Robinson. Need a post-hockey playlist? Sweet Caroline and Don't Stop Believin' at your service. Looking for your daily earworm? The Proclaimers deliver. I even got Rickrolled (only the second person to ever get me - bravo, sir!) Old soul that I am, I knew nothing of the original songs from Indiana Menzel or Nicki Minaj, but loved the sonnets anyway! This is a great gift for every lover of beautiful words - be they written, spoken, or sung.

The pop sonnet tumblr is one of the best things on the Internet. Every Thursday, Erik manages to come up with a brand new take on a classic pop song, something that is at once clever, fresh, and familiar. Personally, I like to cover up the title and try to guess the song, and it's always a delight to gradually figure out the tune he's referencing. The book is more of the same, but unlike other books based on Internet properties, there's a wealth of new material to go along with the greatest hits. Simply put, it's a hoot from start to finish, without a clunker in the bunch. Well worth the incredibly cheap cover charge.

This is a great book that totally captures all these songs, as "the Bard" himself would have written them. I've bookmarked my favorites to share with my family. It's a book to make you think, laugh, and really ponder what these songs I've known for years are really saying! Great job!

This is not a book that you just sit down and read. It's one that you refer to and use when needed. When it comes to teaching teens poetry, who says the sonnets you use for examples have to be classic sonnets that they can't relate to? It's fun for all (nerdy) ages to pick out which songs are familiar and chuckle at the strangely accurate modifications. My particular favorite sonnet-ified song is Baby Got Back.

My students loved these!! A great collection! It made for a fun lesson and introduction to Shakespeare's works.

How cool is it that my son requested this because his English teacher reads these, then plays the pop music?

Great for getting young Shakespeare learners engaged. I used this with my Shakespeare Camp that I teach for Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park. Kids really enjoyed them and performed a few for their parents. It was a great introduction to iambic pentameter and Shakespeare's vocabulary. Lots of variety as well!

My husband and I play a game where one of us starts reading a sonnet from this book and the other has to guess the song title. These sonnets are so clever and fun. As an English teacher, I plan to use some of these in my poetry unit!

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