Shakespearean Sonnet

Shakespearean Sonnet Requirements:

• MUST be 14 Lines, each line containing exactly 10 syllables.

• MUST have 3 Quatrains (set of 4 lines) and 1 Couplet (2 lines)

• MUST follow the rhyme scheme ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

• MUST have a recognizable subject and theme (don’t make your readers guess!)

• Your Rhyming Couplet at the end should resolve the poem, or provide a dramatic twist to the story.
   This is called “the turn”. Make sure your purpose is clear. The couplet is probably the most important two lines of the sonnet… so make them good! THE CLINCHER!

SONNET 18, by William Shakespeare:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st;
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Nacho Sonnet (Inspired by Sonnet 18):

Shall I compare thee to a nacho chip?
Thou art more crunchy -- though without the cheese:
Rough winds do blow when I forget the dip,
For nachos are so very hard to please:
Sometimes too hot, so I must let them cool,
And often is their gold complexion dimm'd,
But only when I make them like a fool,
By chance they burn like candles yet untrimm'd:
But thy eternal crunchiness won't fade,
Nor burn like all my failed attempts to bake,
Nor shall you be like these -- so poorly made,
Which in eternal snacking I forsake.
So long as men can breathe and tongue can taste,
Your nacho-likeness will not be erased.
First Stanza:

A
B
A
B

Second Stanza:

C
D
C
D

Third Stanza:

E
F
E
F

“The Turn” Rhyming Couplet:

G
G

Shakespearean Sonnet Checklist:

Do all of your lines have exactly 10 syllables?
Is your subject or theme clear?
Did you follow the correct rhyme scheme?
Describe how you shifted the voice of the poem, or provided a twist, in the turn: