

iambic pentameter Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
 Or close the wall up with our English dead!

self-contained — In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
 As modest stillness and humility:

hard sounds But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
 Then imitate the action of the tiger;

alliteration Stiffen the sinews, conjure up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage;
 Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;
 Let it pry through the portage of the head

simile Like the brass cannon; let the brow o'erwhelm it
 As fearfully as doth a galled rock
 O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,

echoes sound of waves? Swilled with the wild and wasteful ocean.
 Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide,
Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit
To his full height! On, on, you noblest English,

hard sounds Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof! —
Fathers that, like so many Alexanders,
 Have in these parts from morn till even fought,
 And sheathed their swords for lack of argument.
Dishonour not your mothers; now attest
 That those whom you called fathers did beget you!
 Be copy now to men of grosser blood,
 And teach them how to war. And you, good yeomen,
 Whose limbs were made in England, show us here
 The mettle of your pasture; let us swear
 That you are worth your breeding — which I doubt not;
 For there is none of you so mean and base
 That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
 I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot!
 Follow your spirit, and upon this charge
 Cry, 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'

apostrophe
repetition
Englishness

run on

active & commands

elongated & extended metaphor

emphasised - no pause after 'spirit'

suggests relentless inevitability

emphasis on family

community - as in 'friends' line 1

simile
alliteration - emphasises eagerness?

build-up of short phrases, culminating in larger final 1/2 lines - helped by use of caesura.