

Please note that this is my own summary and not the full material, please refer to the book/other materials for full explanation of the text.

General Characteristic of the 16th Century

In the 1500 (16th century) English language has become standardized and a whole new outlook on life changed English literature.

Q/ What are the most important things that happened in the 16th century?

1. The fall of Constantinople.

The fall of the city led many Greek scholars and their manuscripts to settle down in Italy, because Italy was a great place for learning.

The scholars and their teaching had a huge impact on Italy and its revival of classical learning.

2. Geographical Discoveries.

The fall of Constantinople led to the loss of the old routes for spices, silk and precious stones, so there were attempts to find new routes, this led to the discovery of:

- Cape route to India
- The new world (America)

3. The Invention of Printing.

In the late 15th books were written by hand and they were expensive, only rich people were able to afford them, in 1445 this changed.

The Invention of printing allowed the widespread of knowledge to most people, books were cheap and available without much effort.

4. The Copernican system.

Copernicus' work changed the idea held; that the earth is the center of the universe and that the sun and other planets revolve around it.

Copernicus instead advocated that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun.

5. The Reformation.

By the end of the Middle Ages many thought the catholic church needed reformation, because of the growing wealth of the clergy and the moral shortcomings to some of them.

Q/ What made Italy the center of the renaissance?

- By its geographical position close to Greece Egypt and Arabic empire.
- By its traditional Roman law and government.
- By its material prosperity and peace.

Q/ What The Reformation of the church included?

- Humanism and the Renaissance.
- The invention of printing.
- The reaction of princes against the authority of the pope.

The Renaissance

It is the most significant movement of the 16th century, unlike the middle ages, it was conscious of itself, it knew that it was the Renaissance.

It was marked by the growing interest of the part of scholars in the language and literature of the classical worlds of Greece and Roman.

Q/ What are the characteristics of the renaissance?

1. Humanism.

The believe that Humans is the most important being on earth, it focuses on the human element rather than the supernatural or divine (like the medieval), it relies on science rather than superstition.

2. Secularism.

The principle of separation between the state and religion.

This was a major thing in the 16th, before that (in the Middle Ages) the church was in control of everything, from the state to art and literature.

3. Naturalism.

The belief that everything happens in the world is natural and can be tested with science.

This helped shift the emphasis from the supernatural to the here and now, it helped people to seek means to achieve their goals instead of relying on god and superstition.

4. The Revival of Platonism.

The belief in man's ability to increase through wisdom and virtue his power and knowledge with which to control the non-human element (the supernatural spirit).

5. Classic Translations and Standards.

The renaissance offered many great translations of classics Greek and Latin works, it also promoted classical standards to literature.

Sixteenth Century Poetry

In the 16th century, lyrics in its all kind were popular, songs and madrigals and especially lyrical poems, there were few English poets who were popular in that time:

- Sir Thomas Wyatt.
- Henry Howard (Earl of Surrey).
- Philip Sidney.
- Edmund Spenser.

Before that (The Middle Ages) there was **Geoffrey Chaucer**, which was one of the greatest poets in the Middle Ages, he influenced 16th poets.

Q/ How did Chaucer influence the 16th century poets?

- His employment of rhyme and regular metre.
- His huge contribution to middle English.
- His impact on native literature remained intact.

Lyrical Poetry: A type of poetry that express personal feelings in a short way with rhymes, it is *Subjective, Short, Musical*.

Sonnet

The sonnet is 14 line poem written in iambic pentameter, the sonnet were the most important form of poetry in the 16th century.

The sonnet originated in Italy in the 13th century by Petrarch and Dante, the English sonnet was credited to Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard in the early 16th century.

Sonnets were mostly about love, Petrarch wrote sonnets to his mistress **Laura**.

Petrarch Sonnet

Also called the Italian sonnet, were composed of 14 lines, as follows:

- **Octave:** the first 8 lines of the sonnet and it is sometimes divided into 2 **Quatrain** (4 lines).
- **Sestet:** the last 6 lines of the sonnet, it is sometimes divided into 2 **tercets** (3 lines).

English Sonnet

Henry Howard was one of the first to modify the Italian Scheme of the sonnet, but Shakespeare was the best to apply it, this is why English Sonnet was called

The Shakespearean Sonnet.

Q What are Difference Between English and Italian Sonnet?

English	Italian
The Rhyming is abab,cdcd	The Rhyming is abba,abba
It consist of 3 quatrains and couplet	It consist of octave and sestet
The climax is in the couplet	The climax is in the octave

Q/ What are the Themes of the 16th Century poetry?

1. Courtly Love.

Love was treated as a kind of god to be worshiped, poets idealized their lovers and put them high in place.

Usually it involved females of high rank and unattainable, not just because of the class difference, but because they are usually married.

2. Time.

Time was an important theme, it manifested in the idea of youth and the saying “**carpe florem**” meaning (pick the flower), it represents the poet's desire for youth and the beauty that comes from it.

3. Death.

Closely connected to time, is the theme of immortality and the fear of death, there were two reactions from poets about it:

- It drove some poets to live in the moments following the motto “**carpe diem**” meaning (pick the day).
- Others took reckless risks and attacked the wicked.

4. Dreams.

Dreams and sleep were also one of the themes the poets used in the 16th century.

Q/ What are The Poetic Devices of the 16th Century?

- **Metaphor:** Is a figure of speech that compare between two things that isn't literally true in order to make a resemblance.

Ex: She is flower.

- **Metonymy:** Is a figure of speech where an object name is replaced by another closely connected to it.

Ex: What is your favourite *dish*?

Here dish means food.

- **Synecdoche:** A figure of speech that uses a part of something to refer to the whole.

Ex: We Need more *hands* to finish the job.

Here hands refers to men.

- **Apostrophe:** A figure of speech that is used to address a non human entity (object).

In Sonnet 1 Edmund uses Apostrophe to describe the pages and rhymes.

- **Oxymoron:** A figure of speech that combines contradictory words with opposing meanings.

Ex: Bitter sweet.

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of the same letter in the beginning of words in a single line.

Ex: "Yet may I, by no means, my wearied mind".

- **Consonance:** The repetition of the same letter in the mid or end of words in a single line.

Ex: "Who list her hunt, I put him out of doubt".

Q/ What are The Images of the 16th Century?

1. Images of the sea.

The sea was the most important image of the 16th century because of the discovery that were made through the sea especially the discovery of the new world (America).

2. Life as a stage (Theatre).

Stage was a very important image in the 16th century, poets would compare our life to a play, happiness and sadness to comedy and tragedy, it was widely used because of the popularity of plays and how similar life can be to a play.

3. Stars.

Stars was an important image of the 16th century, people back then depended on stars to guide them through their journey through the wide open seas.

4. War.

5. Diseases.

6. Imprisonment.

7. Nature.

Sir Thomas Wyatt

Thomas was responsible of introducing the Italian sonnet to English poetry, his influence was major especially in his use of two forms of poetry:

- **ottava rima**: A rhyming stanza of eight lines.
- **terza rima**: A rhyming stanza of three lines.

stanza: A group of lines separated from others in a poem.

To His Lady By Thomas Wyatt

In this poem Thomas asks his love a simple question: yes or no. He is asking her if she wants him or not, expressing this in a very simple and direct way.

- **Themes:** Courtly Love.
- **Tone:** Practical, Rational.
- **Style:** Simple, Direct.

Farewell By Thomas Wyatt

In this poem Thomas says goodbye to his beloved because of her betrayal, and not keeping her promises to him, he calls her a hypocrite (having a double heart).

- **Themes:** Courtly Love.
- **Tone:** Sad, Angry, Betrayed
- **Style:** Simple, Direct.

An Appeal By Thomas Wyatt

In this poem Thomas ask a rhetorical question, saying: “after all, you leave me like this?” to express his wonder and surprise.

Thomas uses reputation for emphasis and for music.

Thomas ends his poem with: “alas, thy cruelty” to mean that he is leaving her.

- **Themes:** Courtly Love.
- **Tone:** Frustration, Sad, Wonder.
- **Style:** Simple, Direct.

The Galley By Thomas Wyatt

In this poem Thomas uses a metaphor of the sea to describe his love, he uses shipwreck to describe his feeling of rejection, love as being the journey of the dangerous sea, filled with hardships and obstacles, and he is the ship that is lost in the sea without his beloved, the harsh winds ruin the sail, he thinks that death

is mercy because of the intense pain he feels, in the couplet he says that his mind is drowned by pain and he cannot have comfort.

- **Theme:** Courtly Love.
- **Tone:** Sad, Depressed, Helpless
- **Style:** Metaphoric.
- **Image:** Life as a sea journey.

The Hind By Thomas Wyatt

Thomas refers to his beloved as Hind (female deer) who he is tired of pursuing her “hunting”, he no longer wants to do it, because she is already married to Caesar, which is a king, and that this pursuit “hunt” is pointless.

- **Image:** Hunting.
- **Style:** Metaphoric.
- **Tone:** Helpless, sad, depressed.

Q/ Why did Thomas used Hind as a Metaphor?

He used Hind because its beautiful and graceful, and because they used to hunt them in his time.

Q/ What is the moral of The hind?

That we shouldn't waste our time on pointless things.

Henry Howard

To His Lady By Henry Howard

In this Poem Howard says that he will be to his beloved no matter the condition, good or bad, he give list of options that are contradictory (in youth or in old age, in heaven or in hell..).

- **Style:** Direct.
- **Tone:** Romantic.

Q/ What is the meaning of To His Lady by Henry Howard?

That he belongs to his beloved no matter the situation good or bad.

Spring By Henry Howard

In this poem Henry describes spring and summer, two renewal seasons, everything comes to life in these seasons, Henry describe how beautiful they are, then in the couplet he compares them to himself saying that even though all this beauty surround him he still feel sorrow.

- **Image:** Nature.
- **Style:** Descriptive.
- **Tone:** Helpless, sad.

Q/ What is the structure of “To his Lady” By Henry Howard?

Q/ What is the structure of “Spring” By Henry Howard?

Henry Makes the first 3 quatrains as subject, and the couplet as the predicate, the whole sonnet serve as one statement.

Edmund Spenser

Spenserian Stanza: A nine-line stanza invited by Edmund, the rhyme scheme is (abab bcbc c), the first 8 lines are pentameter, and the last one is hexameter.

Edmund used the Spenserian stanza in his epic poem The Faerie Queene.

Spenserian Sonnet: Is a poem of fourteen lines of iambic pentameter rhyming (abab bcbc cdc d ee), this sonnet is made of 3 Quatrains that are interlocking in rhyme and a concluding couplet.

Iambic Pentameter: A line of a poem composed of 10 syllables (five iambic feet).

Iambic Hexameter (Alexandrine): A line of a poem composed of 12 syllables (six iambic feet).

Allegory: Is a story with two levels of meaning, a surface one and a hidden (deep) one.

AMORETTI By Edmund Spenser

AMORETTI: Is a sonnet sequence dedicated to one person.

AMORETTI means little love message or little cupid, Edmund wrote these sonnets for his wife Elizabeth.

In sonnet sequence the sonnets are numbered not named.

Sonnet 1 By Edmund Spenser

In Sonnet 1 Edmund talks about how happy he would be if his beloved reads his poems, employing the three sense:

- **Touch:** That his beloved will touch the pages of his poem.
- **Sight:** That his beloved will see the lines of his poem.
- **Hearing:** That his beloved will hear the rhymes of his poem.

He envy the pages, the lines and the rhymes, and he say to them “please her alone, i care for no other thing”.

- **Tone:** Longing, Sad.
- **Style:** Descriptive.

Q/ How does Spenser describe his beloved in Sonnet 1?

He Describes:

- **Her hands:** As delicate and mighty (because it holds his life) saying “lilly hands” and “dead doing might”.

- **Her eyes:** As flashing and deigne saying “lamping eyes”.
- **Her look:** As blessed saying “Angels blessed looke”.

Sonnet 34 By Edmund Spenser

In this sonnet Edmund uses a simile to compare his life to a ship and his beloved to a star, the star that guide the ship.

In the sonnet a storm hit and hides the star, this symbolise the problems between Edmund and his beloved, he hope that one day the storm will end and he sees the star again.

- **Tone:** Hopeful, Optimistic.
- **Style:** Descriptive.
- **Image:** Life as a Sea Journey.

Q/ Give one common image of the 16th with an example?

1. Life as a sea journey.

Sonnet 34 by Edmund Spenser.

2. Life as a stage.

Sonnet 54 by Edmund Spenser.

3. Nature.

Spring By Henry Howard.

Sonnet 54 By Edmund Spenser

Edmund uses the stage image in this poem describing life as a theatre, his love is the audience, and he is the actor.

He describe his love as a harsh and cold (senseless stone), because when he preforms comedy she mocks him, when he preforms tragedy she laughs at him.

- **Style:** Descriptive.
- **Image:** Life as a Sea Journey.
- **Tone:** Depressed.

Walter Raleigh

Parody: Is a poem which gives a comic imitation of another work for a satirical purposes.

When poets uses Parody to critique another poem, they use the same rhyme, the same stanza lines, and the same metre.

What is our Life By Walter Raleigh

In this poem Walter compares life to a theatre, it is a full depiction of stage life, where he depicts life to a comedy, our mothers womb is the changing room, the happy times is the music that happens between scenes, god is the wise and fair spectator (audience), the grave is the curtains when the play is done.

This poem is not about courtly love unlike other poems in the 16th country, it is a philosophical poem that describes life.

Walter describes life as a ridicules play, happiness comes at short intervals, and we are marching to one thing; death which is the only serious thing.

- **Theme:** Philosophical.
- **Style:** Metaphorical.
- **Tone:** Pessimistic, Desperate.
- **Image:** Life as a Stage.

The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd By Walter Raleigh

In this poem Walter replies to Marlowe's poem The Passionate Shepherd to his love, he gives a realistic view of the country side, saying that when the night comes the cold and the cares comes with it, the birds hide, the gown, shoes, cap, and the bed of roses will all be broken and forgotten.

Walter tries to paint an image of the real life of the country side, speaking through a nymph, replying to each description of Marlow's poem, in the couplet the Nymph conclude that if youth and happiness is eternal then *maybe* she might love him.

Q Difference between Nature poetry and Pastoral poetry?

Nature Poetry: Talks about the nature that is not touched by man.

Pastoral Poetry: Talks about man made nature.

Christopher Marlowe

Blank verse: Poetry written with regular metrical but unrhymed lines, usually in iambic pentameter.

Christopher Marlowe was the earliest to use blank verse in the 16th century.

Pastoral Poetry: Poetry which focuses on the simple country side life of shepherds and rustic people.

The Passionate Shepherd to his Love

In this poem the Shepherd invites his love to come live with him, he tries to convince her with an idealized picture of the country side, given an unrealistic offers.

- **Tone:** Dreamy.
- **Theme:** Courtly Love.

- **Style:** Simple, Direct.

This poem was written in blank verse, meaning it has no rhymes.