

Sonnet 18 (Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?)

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.

<p>Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?</p> <p>Thou art more lovely and more temperate:</p> <p>Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,</p> <p>And summer's lease hath all too short a date:</p> <p>Label the rhyme scheme:</p>	<p>Lines 1-4 (Vocabulary): Define the following:</p> <p>Temperate:</p> <p>Lease:</p> <p>Art (not the subject):</p>
<p>Line 1: Type of figurative language:</p> <p>Tenor: Vehicle:</p>	<p>Line 1: Who is "thee"? What are two possible options?</p>
<p>Line 4: (Figurative Language) Type of figurative language:</p> <p>Why is "summer's lease" too short?</p>	<p>Whole Stanza: Why do you think the speaker chose summer to make the comparison?</p>

<p>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;</p> <p>Label the rhyme scheme:</p>	<p>Lines 5-8 (Vocabulary): Define the following:</p> <p>Complexion:</p> <p>Dimm'd (or dimmed):</p> <p>Fair:</p> <p>Untrimm'd (or untrimmed):</p>
<p>Lines 5-6 (Figurative Language):</p> <p>Type of figurative language:</p> <p>Effect:</p>	<p>Lines 6-7 (Figurative Language): An anaphora is repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. Identify the anaphora in these lines.</p> <p>What effect does it create?</p>
<p>Line 8: (Connotations) "Untrimm'd" is also a sailing term. Untrimmed sails on a ship are those which have not been adjusted to properly catch the wind. How does this give "untrimm'd" an opposite meaning from the obvious (made ugly by natural changes)?</p>	<p>Line 8 (Figurative Language): Identify an example of alliteration in this line.</p> <p>What effect does it create?</p>

What is the tone of the poem up to this point?

<p>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;</p> <p>Label the rhyme scheme:</p>	<p>Lines 9-12: Where does the Volta occur? How do you know?</p> <p>How does the speaker's mood change?</p>
<p>Line 10 (Connotations): Does the word "ow'st" mean <i>owns</i> or <i>owes</i>? Explain your opinion and the meaning of each in context.</p>	<p>Line 11: (Figurative Language) What is the figurative language used?</p> <p>What is the effect of the device?</p>
<p>Lines 9-12: Notice that the word <i>eternal</i> appears twice in this quatrain. Circle them above.</p> <p>What tone does the repetition of this word create?</p>	<p>Line 12 (Figurative Language): Identify the metaphor in this line.</p> <p>Tenor: _____ Vehicle: _____</p> <p>Meaning: _____</p>

<p>So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.</p> <p>Label the rhyme scheme:</p>	<p>Lines 13-14 (Figurative Language): Identify the anaphora.</p> <p>What effect does it create?</p>
<p>Line 14 (Figurative Language): Identify the alliteration in this line.</p> <p>What effect does it create?</p>	<p>Line 14 (Figurative Language): Identify the personification.</p>

The poem overall

Who or what is the **subject** of this poem?

Who is the **speaker** of the poem? Remember, the speaker of the poem is not always the poet.

Who is the speaker speaking to (**the audience**) in the poem? How do you know?

Pick two **tone adjectives** to describe the speaker's **attitude towards the subject**.

Identify the poem's **central theme**. What is the purpose of the poem overall? What is Shakespeare suggesting about life or love?

Line 11 contains a **Biblical allusion** to Psalm 23:4: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." How does this information help shape the speaker's purpose?

Do you think the speaker is right when he implies the poem keeps living as long as humans keep breathing? Explain.

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, how strong of a love poem is this? Explain.