

This poem is dedicated to young man & dark lady
12-line → Problem ⇒ 3 quatrains }
2-line → Soln ⇒ couplet } 14 lines

01 - SONNET 29

William Shakespeare.

- 1) Rhyme scheme of Shakespeare's sonnet ?
A) abab efef , cdcd , gg
- 2) what is the particular state of mind of poet in which poem was written ?
A) The poet is in a despicable state of mind. He was fallen from grace & feels so much depressed. He also feels unlucky, shame, fiercely jealous of those around him.
- 3) How does Shakespeare use the lark as a symbol in this sonnet ?
A) Shakespeare uses the lark as a symbol of hope. The poet finds himself utterly dejected of his present condition in the beginning of the poem. But when he thinks of his friend, all the dark thoughts disappear & his heart takes the gladness of the morning when the sky lark sings at heaven's gate.
- 4) Pick out expressions from the poem to show the poet's ~~dej~~ ~~sugestion~~ ?
A) In disgrace with fortune and men's eye
All alone beweep my outcaste state
Trouble deaf heaven with my bootless ~~cries~~
Look upon myself and curse my fate.

5) comment on the 'imaginary lark'?

A) The simile of the lark describes aptly the effect of his thought of his love. When the poet thinks of his love in his utter despair, his mind condition improves like a sky lark at day break rising up & leaving the earth far behind to sing hymns to God.

B) Explain briefly the final couplet?

A) When the poet remembers his sweet love he feels so wealthy that he would refuse to change places even with King. He means that in the presence of his dear love, his position is greater than that of a King.

7) Evaluate the poem as a sonnet?

A) A sonnet is a poem consisting of 14 lines, derived from the Italian word 'sonetto', the sonnet traditionally reflects upon a single sentiment, with a classification sonnet 29 is one of 154 sonnets written by William Shakespeare. It shows the poet as vulnerable & dismayed. He feels unlucky, shamed & fiercely jealous of those around him but feels better upon thinking of his beloved. The reason for the poet's anguish is still an enigma & there are doubts whether this poem sonnet is autobiographical. It also seems to highlight

the great joy which ends the poem, when he thinks once more on his beloved, as in the Psalms it says above the clouds.

8) The word 'state' occurs thrice in poem. How does the meaning of this word change with each occurrence?

A) Shakespeare repeats the word 'state' playing on its ambiguity in meaning - Kingdom or situation. In 1592, the poor jobless

due to closing down of theatres after the outbreak of plague. Another reason for his outcaste state is his better rivalry with Robert Greene, a fellow playwright. In line 10, it is a little obvious that the 'state' is used as pun bcz it does neatly anticipate the meaning of that final couplet, namely that the Bard's humble but blessed state of being lower & wealthier than the 'state wise king', which stands for kingdom.

9) This sonnet was composed in around 1592. If we assume that speaker is poet himself, find out the possible persons for the speaker to be out of favour with, 'fortune & men's eye'?

A) In 1592 there was a vehement attack on (5) by dramatist Robert Greene, who in a great wrath at his desecration called him as "...an upstart crow, beautified

"with our feathers". One can only imagine what grim & his deathbed assault must have caused (Q). Moreover the poet were jobless as the London theatres were closed due to Rousie outbreak of plague. These were the reasons for speaker to be out of favour with fortune in men's eyes.

II Essay Questions:-

- 1) Theme of the poem?
A) Sonnet 29 is one of the sonnets of William Shakespeare, expressing initial state of depression, helplessness & unhappiness in life. His subsequent recovery through happiness, thoughts of love. It starts off with self-pity & negative impressions as the poet feels jealousy towards the more advantageous men in the world. He wants the life that they are living at the beginning of sonnet. The poet has his own form of depression, but they are not good enough for him. It becomes evident that the source of speaker's despondency is that he is not with a friend whom he loves. The bad mood is therefore driven by loneliness. But then the speaker mood starts to change. This is brought on by thoughts of the man he loves. He starts to

feel happy & this then moves on to feelings of hope. (S) is also to incorporate a small piece of personalization into Sonnet 29 around lines 12-13.
The conclusion of speaker is that despite his feelings of loneliness bcz his friend is not around, just thinking of him makes him feel good again.

2) Describe the changes brought over the mind of speaker by 'sweet memories'?

A) In Sonnet 29, the poet is full of self-doubt & unsuccessfulness till now. He is at the verge of an existential crisis & his self-battling is even having an effect on fortune. He feels cursed, destiny has been cruel to him. He spends time alone, clutching sleep in negative feelings & desiring for 'this man's art' so that man's scope. Historically it could have been an uncertain time for (Q). As negativity kept into him, the band started at his beloved, & then after his state. He is filled with exultance & rather than wanting to cry to heaven he now sings hymns at heaven's gate. His beloved's sweet memories bring a 'wealth' far greater than anything owned by a king.