



**CLASS IX**  
**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH (POETRY)**  
**CHAPTER 1 - TRUE LOVE**  
(WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE)

**SOLUTIONS**

**Comprehension**

**I. Say whether the following statements are true or false**

1. Everything else in this world is eternal like true love. (False)
2. True love is like the pole star to the wandering ships. (True)
3. True love is a thing of the past. (False)

**II. Answer the following:**

**Q1. What, according to Shakespeare, is the most important quality of true love?**

**Ans:** According to Shakespeare, the most important quality of true love is unchanging. It is immortal and stands beyond the compass of time's cruel hands. Everything in this world is destroyed by time but not true love. True love is eternal and do not change with the changing time.

**Q2. What are the things to which Shakespeare compares true love?**

**Ans:** He compares true love with an "ever-fixed mark" not shaken by severed storms. He compares it with the star which guides the travelling ships.

**Q3. "If this be error, and upon me proved, I never writ, nor no man ever loved". What is the error, according to the poet? What does this show?**

**Ans:** The poet says that true love is immortal. It is eternal and live to the doomsday. If it is proved wrong, then he should be considered a man who never wrote poetry.

It shows that true love is forever.



- i) A Shakespearean sonnet is a poem of 14 lines, divided into 3 stanzas of 4 lines each and an ending couplet (= 2 lines which rhyme).

**Find the rhyme scheme of the 3 stanzas of the poem.**

**Ans:** The rhyme schemes of the 3 stanzas of the poem are *abab, cdcd, efef*.

- ii) This poem uses many similes (see notes to “The Daffodils”)

- a) List the similes that are used.

**Ans:** Simile is a figure of speech in which one thing is compared to another of different kind. The similia (similes) used in this poem are: a fixed beacon, a star that guide ships.

- b) Explain what true love is compared with in each simile, and bring out the point of similarity.

**Ans:** Here, true love is compared to a fixed beacon that is not shaken by storm. True love is also never shaken by difficulties that one face in life. True love is also compared to a star that guides the travelling ships. Like a guiding star true love also guides one’s life and gives purpose to life.

**Example:**

**“Ever-fixed mark”.** It is like the pole star by which ships are steered.

1. Paraphrase (or write in prose, the meaning of) the first stanza of this sonnet.

**Ans:**

**1<sup>st</sup> stanzas:**

Let me not give obstacles to the union of two sincerely loving minds. “Love is not Love” which changes when it meets difficult situations or falls apart with time and becomes unfaithful.

2. Do the same for stanza 2, 3 and the final couplet.

**[This will give you a substance of the poem.]**

**Ans:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> stanza:**

No, it is a fixed beacon that is not shaken even by storm. It is the star that guides every voyaging ship. Its true value is unknown, though its altitude can be known.



**Ans:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> stanza:**

Love is not time's fool, it is not subjected to the passage of time, it is eternal, though rosy lips and cheeks are subjected to its damaging effects. But true love does not wane with the passage of time. It remains unaffected and remains steadfast till the day of death.

**Final Couplet:**

**Ans:** If all these things that the poet has said be proved wrong, then he should be considered a man who never wrote poetry. In that case it should also be taken for granted that no man ever loved truly.

**Q4. Why do the ships require the star to be the guide?**

**Ans:** The ships require the star to be the guide to know their direction so that they do not wander off.

\*\*\*\*\*

