

**AN INTRODUCTION INTO POETRY****William Shakespeare:**

English poet and playwright who is often described as the greatest writer in English language. He wrote many poems; the best known of which are the sonnets, which mean a 14 lines poem.

Each sonnet has ( 3 quatrains and a couplet) and the rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg. The couplet summarizes the whole sonnet. He also wrote an autobiographical sonnet that talks about what is happening in his life and how he applies his life in a literary work. His sonnet shows his influences by classics (Roman and Greek). He wrote 154 sonnets , from 1-126 are about his love for his friend.

**Sonnet 18****William Shakespeare***Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*

*Thou art lovely and more temperate.*

*Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,*

*And summer's lease hath all too short a date,*

*Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,*

*And often is his gold complexion dimmed*

*And every fair from fair sometimes declines.*

*By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;*

*But they eternal summer shall not fade,*

*Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,*

*Nor shall death brag thou wond'rest 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.*

### New words:

Temperate: gentle

Rough: harsh

Darling: dear

Lease: last

buds : unopened flowers

Complexion: skin

Dimmed: covered with clouds.

Decline: lose beauty

Eternal summer: your youth beauty

Brag: boast , proud of

### **Paraphrasing the first stanza:**

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*

*Thou art lovely and more temperate.*

*Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,*

*And summer's lease hath all too short a date*

The poet is fascinated with his beloved ( his friend)to the extent that he compares his fair youth to the sunny days in summer because sunny days are rare and the people love these days. so, he compares his beloved to these days that all people love.

After that he gives us an evidence to his arguments:

**First**, the strong harsh winds of the summer's day damage unopened flowers of May.

**Second**, the summer's days last only for a short time.

**Third**, summer's days are too hot in summer that people can't endure the heat of sun.

**Paraphrasing the second stanza:**

*Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,*

*And often is his gold complexion dimmed*

*And every fair from fair sometimes declines.*

*By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed*

### New words:

**Complexion:** the colour of the skin

**Dimm'd:** cover

**Fair :** beauty

**Decline:** change by the time

**Untrimmed:** beauty

The poet says that in summer's days, the people can't endure the heat of sun, so it changes the colour of people's face , they lose their freshness by the passing of time .No earthly simile can adequately convey the ideal beauty symbolized by his young friend.

### paraphrasing the third stanza:

*But they eternal summer shall not fade,*

*Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,*

*Nor shall death brag thou wond'rest in his shade,*

*When in eternal lines to time though grow'st.*

Earthly beauty may decay and disintegrate but the beauty of his friend is like an eternal summer. The young friend ,therefore ,can never lose beauty that he possesses. Death cannot boast of

frightening his friend. In other words, this beauty is not subject to decay and death. It is eternal and caught forever in the eternal lines of his sonnet.

### **The couplet:**

*So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,*

*So long lives this, and this gives life to thee*

The poet confidently predicts that the ideal beauty of his friend will never perish because this is enshrined in his poetry.

And here we see the power of verse to immortalize people.

### **Figures of speech:**

#### **Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? (Metaphor)**

The poet compares his beloved to a summer's day

#### **Eye of heaven: (personification)**

He personifies heaven to someone with shine eyes.

#### **Gold complexion : (personification)**

He personifies heaven by someone has a gold skin which is turn to dark by the heat of summer.

### **Death brag: (personification)**

The poet personifies death as a proud man

### **Sound devices:**

Rough – Buds: **Assonance**

Time- shine: **Assonance**

Fair – From : **Alliteration**

Lines-times: **Alliteration**

This – gives: **Assonance**

Long – live – life : **alliteration.**

Sonnet 18 is a typical English or Shakespearean sonnet.

It consists of three quatrains followed by a couplet and has the characteristic rhyme scheme: abab cdcd efef gg.

### **Meter:**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day

(shall) u (I) -/(com) u (pare) -/(thee) u (to) -/(a) u (sum) -  
/(mer's) u (day) -/

**Iambic. Pentameter.**

**THE END**