

Sonnet 18: Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?

By: William Shakespeare

1. Vocabulary

1. possession-(n) - The state owning, holding or controlling something.
2. decline-(v) - Become less.
3. course-(n) - Line of motion or direction.

2. Reading

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 owest;

Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou growest:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

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

3 Comprehension Questions

1. Do you think that the speaker has been successful in immortalizing his love in the words of this poem? To what extent is this only a poetic idea?

2. Imagine for a moment the lights dim at the end of *Death of a Salesman* and the entire stage is dark. A single light shines down on one character that has moved to down-center stage. In the final moment of the play they recite this sonnet. Who speaks? Whom do they memorialize? Why?

3. How does Shakespeare use language and metaphor to present the young woman's beauty in Sonnet 18?

4 Vocabulary

1. The ship is on a _____ to Spain.
2. His interest in video games _____ as his interest in girls increased.
3. You cannot run while the ball is in your _____, you must throw it to another player.

5 Focus on Grammar

A Identify

Adjectives tell us about people, "Maria is a *smart*", places "Paris is *beautiful*", or things "The food is *good*"
What are the adjectives in the sentence(s) below?

1. Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
2. Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines, And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
3. Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
4. But thy eternal summer shall not fade Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;

B Practice - Sentence Writing

Write original sentences using the grammar in this exercise.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____