

SONNET 18: "SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DAY?"

An **English sonnet**, or **Shakespearean sonnet**, uses the following conventions:

- 14 lines
- written in iambic pentameter
- abab cdcd efef gg rhyme scheme

Sonnets are famously used to explore the theme of love. William Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 is no exception; it is part of a **sonnet cycle**, or a series of sonnets written to explore the relationship between two people in love.

Directions: Read Sonnet 18. Mark the rhyme scheme and scan the lines for the meter. (The first two lines have been done for you.) When you are finished, reread the poem and translate it into your own words. (Look up any words you don't know and search for multiple meanings.)

Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare	Rhyme	Translation
- / - / - / - / - / Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?	a	<i>Should I compare you to a summer's day?</i>
- / - / - / - / - / Thou art more lovely and more temperate:	b	<i>You are lovelier and milder (less hot in your personality; sweet) than a summer's day.</i>
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.		



