

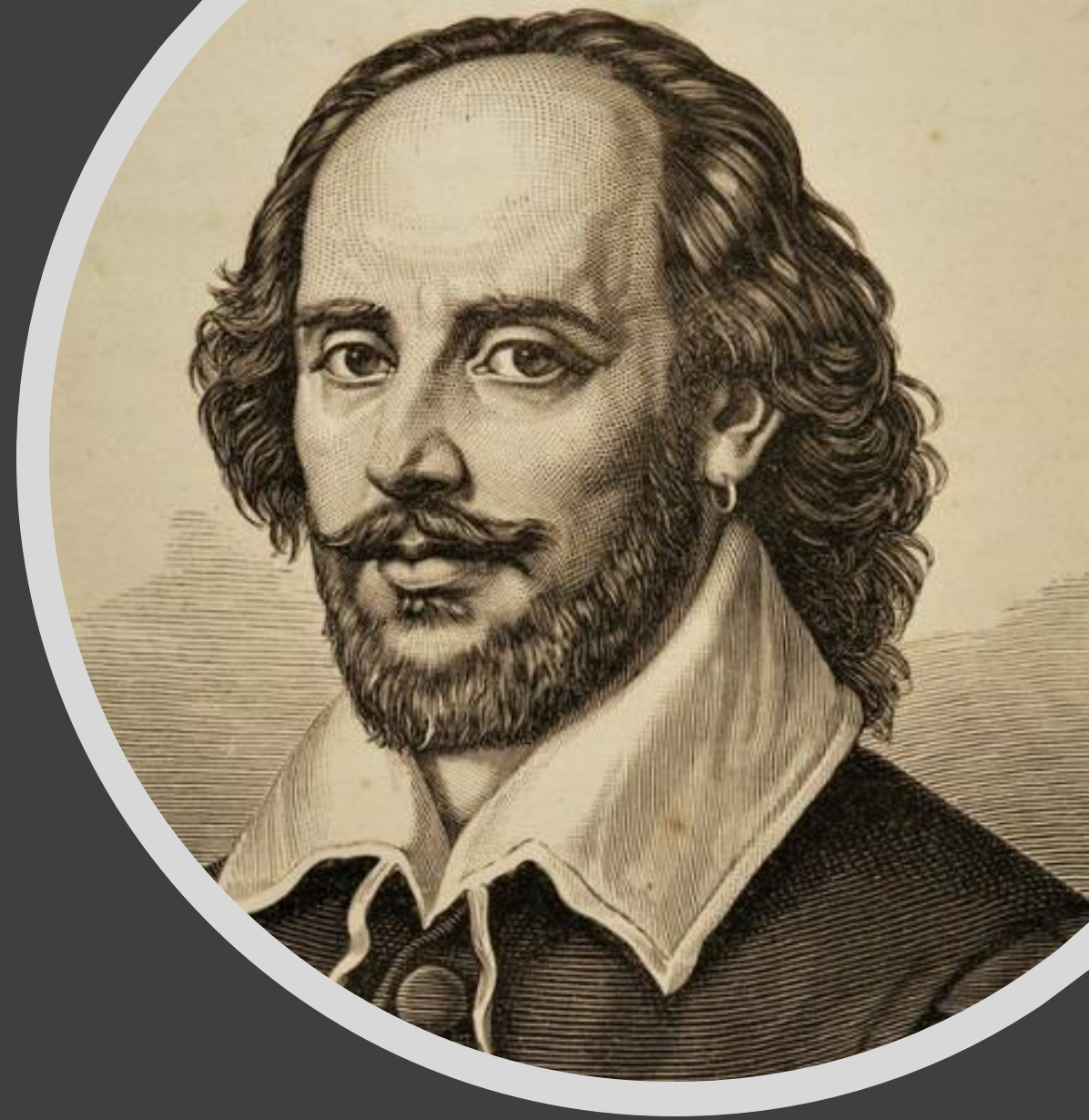
A painting of William Shakespeare, likely by John Giltner, depicting him in a study. He is seated in a red upholstered chair, wearing a dark, ruffled Elizabethan-style garment. He has long, wavy hair and a beard. His right hand rests on his forehead, while his left hand holds a quill pen. In front of him is a wooden desk with a book, papers, and a hat. Behind him is a bookshelf filled with books. The scene is dimly lit, with a green curtain visible on the left.

William
Shakespeare

Sonnet XVIII

The Poet

- Sonnet XVIII was written by William Shakespeare in 1609.
- Shakespeare lived in Stratford-Upon Avon, England on April 23rd 1564 and died on his birthday in 1616.
- He wrote during the “Humanism” movement; the belief that an individual's worth and potential was determined in this world.
- Shakespeare wrote 160 sonnets all written with the same rhyme scheme and pattern.



Structure

- 14 lines of iambic pentameter
- 3 quatrains followed by a couplet
- **Quatrain:** a stanza of four lines
- **Couplet:** 2 lines using the same meter and joined by rhyme
- Rhyme Scheme: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

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 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.

Quatrain

Couplet



Summary

- The Poem begins by him asking whether he should compare "thee" to a summer day. He states a list of reasons why summer isn't all that great like how the wind shakes the buds that emerge in Spring, summer ends too quickly, and the sun can get too hot or be obscured by clouds.

He continues, saying that everything beautiful eventually fades by chance or through the course of nature and time. He continues to argue the fact that his or her summer won't go away, nor will his or her beauty fade away. Followed by him stating how death will never be able to take the beloved, since the beloved exists in eternal lines which is this poem (sonnet XVIII). The speaker concludes that as long as humans exist and can read the poem he wrote that it will live on, allowing the beloved to keep living as well.



Symbolism

- The whole poem itself represents Shakespeare's desire to immortalise the person whom he is speaking about, through the poem.
- He states how the poem keeps her forever alive as long as it is being read, and how death will never get rid of her beauty.

Figurative Devices

- Metaphor (Line 5) –
“Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines”
- Personification (Line 6) – “And often his gold complexion dimm’d”
- Personification (Line 11) -
“Nor shall Death brag...”
- Personification (Line 14) -
“And this gives life to thee”

18.
SHall I compare thee to a Summers day?
Thou art more louely and more temperate:
Rough windes do shake the darling buds of Maie,
And Sommers lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heauen shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd,
And euery faire from faire some-time declines,
By chance, or natures changing course vntrim'd:
But thy eternall Sommer shall not fade,
Nor loose possession of that faire thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wandr'st in his shade,
When in eternall lines to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breath or eyes can see,
So long liues this, and this giues life to thee,

Imagery

- Shakespeare took his time to make sure the reader could see the vivid descriptions of the summers day but didn't necessarily go into detail of whom he was comparing. "Rough winds shake the darling buds of May" is an example of descriptive language.



Interpretation

- The speaker is Shakespeare himself. He is writing this poem to someone that he loves and believes that their beauty should live on forever in writing.
- He states it directly in the last 2 lines of the sonnet, how for as long as there are people who are alive and well who can read this sonnet, his poem to her can live on until the end of time.

