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## Shakespeare sonnet 18 analysis shmoop

Published poetic verse truly does lend immortality to the subject it's written about. Therefore, the theme of "Sonnet 18" is summed up quite nicely in the last two lines: So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, / So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.Click to see full answer. Keeping this in view, what is the theme of Sonnet 18?The major themes in Sonnet 18 are the timelessness of love and beauty, death and immortality, and in particular the immortality of art and subject matter. In the sonnet Shakespeare begins by comparing the subject a summer's day, which the reader is meant to take as a lovely thing.Beside above, what is the theme of Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? The theme of Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18" is that his lover is more beautiful and desirable than "a summer's day" because even such a wonderful season like summer has its flip side-it's too short and sometimes too hot. He concludes by saying that he wishes to immortalize forever the beauty of his lover in his poetry. Also to know is, what is the message of Sonnet 18? Expert Answers info The main purpose of Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 is embodied in the end couplet: So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long lives this and this gives life to thee. The sonneteer's purpose is to make his love's beauty and, by implication, his love for her, eternal.What is the moral lesson in Sonnet 18?The general theme of the sonnet is that what is written about in poetry is eternal - specifically in this poem, Shakespeare is admiring a woman, and saying that her beauty will never fade because he is putting it into verse. He begins by comparing her to a summer day, and then saying she is much more beautiful. Professional Answer and Explanation: Sonnet 18 is so famous largely because of its eloquent use of language and perfection of form. It starts with: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's Professional Literary Style Sonnet 18 is an English or Elizabethan sonnet, meaning it contains 14 lines, including three quatrains and a couplet, and is written in iambic pentameter. The poem follows the rhyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg. Professional Summary: Sonnet 18 In line 2, the speaker stipulates what mainly differentiates the young man from the summer's day: he is "more lovely and more temperate." Summer's days tend toward extremes: they are shaken by "rough winds"; in them, the sun ("the eye of heaven") often shines "too hot," or too dim. Explainer Shakespeare compares his love to a summer's day in Sonnet 18. He is comparing his love to a summer's day.) Thou art more lovely and more temperate: (Shakespeare believes his love is more desirable and has a more even temper than summer.) Explainer The Sonnet eighteen's conclusion indicates that beauty can only end only when the poem ceases to exist. Explainer Sonnet 18. Sonnet 18 is one of the best-known of the 154 sonnets written by the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare. In the sonnet, the speaker asks whether he should compare the young man to a summer's day, but notes that the young man has qualities that surpass a summer's day. Pundit 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. Pundit Answer and Explanation: The speaker in "Sonnet 18" is a close friend of the sonnet's subject. This sonnet falls under the category of the Fair Youth sonnets. Pundit Sonnet 18 Mood or Tone: Some of the sonnets were addressed to a fair youth and some to a dark lady. Sonnet 18 is one of his most famous poems. Pundit The central idea of the sonnet is The speaker thinks that his muse is forgetful and lazy and wastes a lot of time. Pundit The main literary device used in Sonnet 18 is metaphor. It also uses rhyme, meter, comparison, hyperbole, litotes, and repetition. Teacher William Shakespeare and Sonnet 18 Sonnet 18 is perhaps the best known of all sonnets. Their depth and range set Shakespeare apart from all other sonneteers. His sonnet 18 focuses on the loveliness of a friend or lover, the speaker initially asking a rhetorical question comparing them to a summer's day. Teacher The word "this" in line 14 of Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 refers to the poem itself. Sonnet 18 is one of several sonnets in which the speaker proclaims that his love for his friend and his friend's beauty shall be eternalized in the speaker's verse. Teacher The idea emphasizes the appeal of the subject. What power does the speaker of "Sonnet 18" claim that poetry has? "the power to last forever- eternal beauty." Teacher Line 1: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" -This metaphor goes throughout the whole poem, Shakespeare goes to show how much lovelier his beloved is then the comparison really allows. -This metaphor suggests that his beloved will always be young to him, that she has a glow and vitality that is everlasting. Reviewer The "st" conjugation is a very old term for "you currently do", or "you currently have". In that sentence, what Shakespeare is saying in "Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st" is "Don't lose the beauty you have." "Fair" is a term for "beauty", as in "fair maiden". " Reviewer In the poem, the line "And every fair from fair sometime declines," the f is repeated. The second device is a simile. Shakespeare uses his first line, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day," by comparing his beloved to a summer day. The third device the poet uses is personification. Reviewer In Sonnet 18, the problem presented is that summer is not a sufficient way to describe the beauty of the woman Shakespeare is talking about. He is trying to find a way to describe her beauty, but in the first 8 lines he lists off all the reasons why comparing her to a summer day doesn't work. Reviewer In terms of structure, a Shakespearean sonnet has 14 lines and is written in iambic pentameter. This means that it has 3 quatrains (4 line sections) and one heroic couplet. The rhyme scheme, therefore, is abab (quatrain 1), cdcd (quatrain 2), efef (quatrain 3), and gg (heroic couplet). This essay analyzes Shakespeare's Sonnet 18. The sonnet is a captivating love story of a young man fascinated by the beauty of his mistress and affectionately comparing her to nature. The speaker compares his love to a summer's day in Sonnet 18. He is comparing his love to a summer's day. The first stanza, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" opens the poem with an indication of a young man deeply in love (Shakespeare 1). He envisions her as a beautiful creature and even wonders whether one can compare her beauty to any summer season. This love sonnet falls under the lyric genre, with the author expressing deep emotional feelings for his mistress throughout the poem. The first stanza gives an assumption to the reader that the poet is not sure of what is more beautiful, a beautiful summer day, or his mistress. However, the air is cleared in the preceding stanzas that see the poet overcome by flamboyant feelings and admits that his lover is even lovelier than the summer itself (Shakespeare 2). The poem embeds an image of an undying and eternal kind of beauty as visualized by the poet. Literary Analysis of the Sonnet 18 The poet adopts a thematic structure technique to express to his lover's beauty. Line-by-line analysis of Sonnet 18 shows that the first stanza acts as an eye-opener of the poet's attempt to compare his lover with summer. He goes on to state why his lover is better. Stanzas 1-6 give a solid reason as to why one can not compare his lover to summer. Though summer appears to be beautiful, it is not constant and can be very disappointing if solely relied upon. It also does not last as long as his lover's beauty would. The stanzas give detailed answers to his rhetorical question posed at the beginning of the poem. The poet's praises and awe are well expressed in these stanzas by revealing all the beautiful qualities seized by his mistress. Her beauty is constant and can neither be shaken by strong winds, nor can it become unpredictable like the hot sun. It doesn't waiver in the eyes of the beholder like the clouds swallow the summer hence losing its beauty. Stanzas 7-14 indicates the everlasting beauty to which he says cannot be claimed by anything, not even a natural calamity such as death. In the conclusion of the Sonnet 18, W.Shakespeare admits that 'Every fair from fair sometime decline,' he makes his mistress's beauty an exception by claiming that her youthful nature will never fade (Shakespeare 7). Interestingly, the author takes a different approach, but rather to immortalize his beauty by describing it in his poetry. He argues that beauty is constant, and unlike a 'summer day,' is not affected by any changes or fate at all. He, however, seems to be praising his poem as characterized at the end of the poem, where he only compares the everlasting beauty to his text. The Sonnet eighteen's conclusion indicates that beauty can only end only when the poem ceases to exist. Works Cited Shakespeare, William. "Shakespeare Sonnet 18." Shakespeare Sonnets. 1564. Web. Need a custom Essay sample written from scratch by professional specifically for you? certified writers online Read below our complete notes on the poem Sonnet 18 (Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?) by William Shakespeare. Our notes cover Sonnet 18 summary, themes, and literary analysis. William Shakespeare was one of the most prominent playwrights and poets of the sixteenth century. He wrote many famous plays and sonnets. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" is one of his most beautiful pieces of poetry. This sonnet is also referred to as "Sonnet 18." It was written in the 1590s and was published in his collection of sonnets in 1609. In this collection, there are a total of 154 sonnets. These themes of these sonnets are usually love, beauty, time, and jealousy to mortality and infidelity. This collection of sonnets is believed to be addressed to two different persons. On this basis, these sonnets are divided into two portions. The first portion consists of the first 126 sonnets. These sonnets are addressed to a male beloved. Some of these sonnets directly persuade the guy to marry while the rest addresses general themes like mortality, the value of poetry, and the attainment of immortality. The next portion consists of twenty-eight sonnets. These sonnets are addressed to some mysterious lady. The lady is usually referred to as the "dark lady." These sonnets address the themes of greed, appetite, and sexual desires. This sonnet belongs to the first part of the sonnet collection and is, therefore, considered to be addressed to the beloved male. This context specifies that the speaker is praising the beauty of a guy and comparing his beauty to the pleasant aspects of summer. The speaker tells him that there are a few downsides to the beauty of summer, but his beauty is flawless. Moreover, every beautiful thing is doomed to fade except the speaker's beloved. The reason is that he is going to immortalize his beauty by describing it in his poetry. As the number of this sonnet is eighteen, it is clear that it discusses the themes of mortality, the value of poetry, and the attainment of immortality. The speaker reflects on how every worldly entity is mortal. However, he is going to use his poetry against this enemy and win immortality for his beloved by canonizing him in his poetry. Literary Context The wave of writing poetry in sonnet form reached England in the sixteenth century from Italy. Petrarch, an Italian poet and a philosopher, introduced this form for the first time in the fourteenth century in Italy. It was the time of renaissance in Italy. When the renaissance reached England in its real sense in the sixteenth century, sonnet form also came along. Thomas Wyatt was the first English poet to introduce it to the English audience. Many other poets like Sidney and Henry Howard followed the same pattern and anglicized it by introducing quatrains in it. This sonnet confirms this tradition of the English sonnet form. It is written in the form of quatrains and is composed of fourteen lines. The first thirteen lines are divided into three quatrains, and the last two lines make a couplet. Just like other sonnets of Shakespeare, this sonnet also deviates from the traditional sonnet form in regard to its theme. It does not, like the traditional sonnets, narrate the pursuit of a god-like female beloved. On the contrary, it describes the beauty of a male beloved and celebrates poetry as a source of achieving immortality. The poem opens with a question asked by the speaker. The speaker asks the beloved whether he should compare him to a summer day. The next line announces the comparison and says that the beloved is lovelier than a summer day. Moreover, the summer day is extreme, while the beloved is better because he is temperate. The speaker furthers this comparison and does not go to extremes. The speaker also claims that his beloved is lovelier than a summer day. The speaker furthers his admiration by juxtaposing his beloved's beauty with the beauty of other mortal things. He says that summer is too short and fades away into autumn. Similarly, all the other things in the world are going to lose their charm. They are either going to face some accident or fall into the arms of the inevitable death. This admiration of the beloved's beauty is enhanced in the poem by the use of superior metaphors. The speaker uses metaphor like "eye of heaven" in comparison with his beloved beauty to show that his beloved's beauty is not an ordinary thing. Nature is depicted as a harsh and cruel antagonist in this poem. The speaker says that the harsh winds shake the darling buds during May. This depicts that elements of nature are always bent upon damaging the beautiful objects in the world. Moreover, the two extremes of sunshine during summer deprive the humans of the pleasant weather. It is the working of the cruel nature that does not let humans have fun in this world. Similarly, the speaker mentions how every fair thing is destined to lose its fairness in its interaction with natural cycles. Nature is filled with such dangers that can snatch the beauty of anything at any time. Furthermore, death is depicted as a boastful antagonist in the poem. It is one of the agents of cruel nature that puts an end to the beauty of many things. It does not let humans enjoy their life and snatches it from them. The poem highlights the idea that no one can escape death. Everyone, no matter how powerful they are, is going to fall into this pit called grave. This idea is first developed in the poem by the description of the short-lived summer. The speaker says that summer has a very short span of time and will soon end. This idea is then developed, and the speaker maintains that death serves as the full stop for every entity in the world. Every beautiful thing ceases to exist and turns into dust once the time of death arrives. The speaker, however, promises his beloved to protect him from such a future by immortalizing him in his poetry. In the last couplet of the poem, the speaker tells his beloved about his source of achieving immortality. He tells him that he has immortalized him by writing about his beauty in his poetry. He is sure that people will read his poetry even when they are long gone from this world. When they read his poetry, they will appreciate his beloved's beauty. In this way, his beloved will remain immortal. The poem starts with a rhetorical question that emphasizes the worth of the beloved's beauty. This question plays the role of informing the reader about the ensuing comparison in the rest of the poem. The speaker talks to his beloved as if his beloved is standing in front of him. This conversational style makes the message of the poem easy to grasp. It also makes it very attractive for the readers. The second line continues with the same conversational tone. However, this time the speaker is not asking a question. Instead, he is describing the differences between his beloved and summer. He claims that his beloved is lovelier than summer. Also, he is more temperate than summer. This comparison forms the mental image of the speaker's beloved in the mind of the reader. The effect of this image is of awe and admiration. The reader cannot help but admire the marvelous beauty of the speaker's beloved. The next line continues the same comparison. The speaker describes how his beloved is more temperate than summer by describing the roughness of summer. He says that the strong winds in summer shake the newly-sprouted buds on trees. Here, the epithet "darling" is used with the word "buds" to maintain the atmosphere of romance and flattery in the poem. The last line of the quatrain describes another flaw of the summer season. The speaker says that the summer season is short-lived and is destined to fade into the clutches of the cruel autumn. He uses the phrase "all too short a date" to describe the shortness of the summer season. The use of two quantifiers before the word short emphasizes the speaker's claim. The next quatrain brings a few more flaws in the summer season. The speaker is weary of the two extremes of sunshine during the summer season. He uses the metaphor "the eye of heaven" to describe the sun. This use of metaphor is intended to further elevate the status of the speaker's beloved by showing that he is even better than heavenly entities. The speaker says that the sun shines too brightly at times during the summer season. It makes the pleasant weather a bit too hot to bear. Similarly, the speaker claims, sometimes the sunshine is too dull, and the weather becomes cold. Here, the speaker uses the metaphor "his gold complexion" to refer to sunshine. This metaphor creates the image of a beautiful person with golden complexion being compared with the golden rays of the sun in the minds of the readers. The remaining two lines of the quatrain address the problem of mortality. The speaker says that every beautiful thing is doomed to lose its beauty at some point in time. It can happen to a person or a thing through a stroke of luck. The person or thing might face an accident that will take away all its beauty. Moreover, the inevitable death is also waiting for every entity and will prove to be the ultimate end of every type of beauty. In the third quatrain, the speaker tells his beloved that he should not be afraid of these things. He uses the phrase "thy eternal summer" to refer to his beloved's beauty. This metaphor serves the purpose of maintaining the image of the comparison of the summer season and the speaker's beloved, which started in the first line. The second line continues the same thought, and the speaker tells his beloved that he should not be afraid of losing his charm. His charm will stay eternally. In the third line of the quatrain, the speaker makes another promise with his beloved. He tells him that he should not be afraid of death. Here, death is personified and is given the human quality of bragging. The personified image of death creates the image of a boastful enemy, which is trying to bring everything under its shadows. In this way, it is portrayed as a true antagonist. The speaker tells his beloved that this antagonist will never be able to cast his shadow over him. In the last line of the quatrain, the speaker reassures his beloved that he will go on to grow in the lines created by him. These lines will go on parallel with time and will never fade death. The last two lines of the sonnet make a couplet where the speaker talks of his arsenal in his fight against mortality and death. He says that as long as human life exists on this earth, his lines will be read. He uses the phrase "men can breathe, or eyes can see" to refer to human life on earth. Such an elaborated reference emphasizes that even when a single aspect of human life is here on earth, the speaker's words will live. He furthers his claim by saying that the immortality of his poetry will give immortality to his beloved. The poem is written in the form of a sonnet. It has fourteen lines, which are divided into three quatrains and a couplet. The first eight lines—the octave—discuss the same thought i.e., the comparison of the speaker's beloved with summer. The last six lines—the sestet—bring in a new thought. These lines describe how the speaker's beloved is unlike the summer. The rhyme scheme of the sonnet is ababcdedefgg. The words used in the sonnet are straightforward and ordinary. The tone of the sonnet is romantic and full of flattery. The speaker speaks of his beloved beauty as there is no match for it. The speaker of the sonnet is a person who has a lot of experience in love. He/she is very vocal about how everything is lesser in stature than his/her beloved beauty. He/she also talks about using his/her poetry to immortalize his/her beloved. This shows that he/she is a poet. The very first line of the poem is a rhetorical question. The speaker asks his/her beloved whether he/she should compare him to a summer day. This question sets the tone and atmosphere for the rest of the discourse. It creates the air of magnificence around the personality of the speaker's beloved. In line number nine, death is attributed with the human quality of boasting. The personified image of death creates the image of a boastful enemy, which is trying to bring everything under its shadows. In this way, it is portrayed as a true antagonist. In the fifth line of the poem, the sun is described as "the eye of heaven." Here, the sun is compared with an eye, which creates the effect of vividness. It provides the reader with a mental image of the whole scenario. In the sixth line of the poem, the metaphor "his gold complexion" is used to refer to sunshine. This metaphor creates the image of a beautiful person with golden complexion being compared with the golden rays of the sun in the minds of the readers. The metaphor "thy eternal summer" is used to refer to the beloved's beauty. This metaphor serves the purpose of maintaining the image of the comparison of the summer season and the speaker's beloved, which started in the first line.



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