

W. SHAKESPEARE

SONNET 18

Read sonnet 18 written by W.Shakespeare and be ready to answer the questions

- *In what way is the beloved shown to be different from a summer's day and what are these differences based on?*
- *How is the theme of time presented? Which words are related to it? Comment on the phrase "thy eternal summer" and on the type of eternity promised in the poem.*
- *Bearing in mind the function of art in our time, do you think the claim of the last two lines is still valid?*

SONNET 18

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.

Notes:

Lease: allotted time

Date: duration

Fair...fair: beautiful thing from beauty

Untrimmed: stripped of beauty

Thou ow'st: you possess

Lines: lines of poetry