



Exploring Themes - Sonnet 18

The sonnets that Shakespeare wrote often followed one of these themes: love, hate, beauty, separation and the passing of time.

Reread the sonnet below, then write a paragraph explaining what you think the theme or themes of the sonnet are.

*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*





Exploring Themes - Sonnet 27

The sonnets that Shakespeare wrote often followed one of these themes: love, hate, beauty, separation and the passing of time.

Reread the sonnet below, then write a paragraph explaining what you think the theme or themes of the sonnet are.

*Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;
But then begins a journey in my head,
To work my mind, when body's work's expired:
For then my thoughts (from far where I abide)
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,
Looking on darkness which the blind do see:
Save that my soul's imaginary sight
Presents thy shadow to my sightless view,
Which, like a jewel hung in ghastly night,
Makes black night beautiful and her old face new.
So, thus, by day my limbs, by night my mind,
For thee, and for myself, no quiet find.*


