

**Shakespeare's Sonnets:** Write an essay in which you explain the purpose of the poem, and describe how the poet uses literary devices to intensify the poem's meaning.

### **Shakespearean Sonnet: Analysis Steps**

- 1) In your own words, rewrite each line of these Shakespearean sonnets.
  - 2) Summarize the idea that is presented in each quatrain. Summarize the idea in the couplet.
  - 3) Explain what the purpose of each sonnet is.
  - 4) Find similes, metaphors, symbols or imagery and explain how they help to support the purpose of the poem.
- Consider also deductive reasoning and the rhetorical appeals of logos, ethos, and pathos.

\*Rhetorical appeals of logos, ethos and pathos.

### **116. Let me not the marriage of true minds**

**William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**

1. Let me not to the marriage of true minds
2. Admit impediments. Love is not love
3. Which alters when it alteration finds,
4. Or bends with the remover to remove.
5. No! it is an ever-fixed mark
6. That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
7. It is the star to every wandering bark,
8. Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
9. Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
10. Within his bending sickle's compass come;
11. Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
12. But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
13. If this be error and upon me proved,
14. I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

### **130. My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun**

**William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**

1. My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
2. Coral is far more red than her lips' red:
3. If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
4. If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
5. I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
6. But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
7. And in some perfumes is there more delight
8. Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
9. I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
10. That music hath a far more pleasing sound:
11. I grant I never saw a goddess go,--
12. My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
13. And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
14. As any she belied with false compare.

### **Heroic Couplet:**

### 18. Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

1. Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
2. Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
3. Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,\*
4. And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
5. Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
6. And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
7. And every fair from fair sometime declines,
8. By chance, or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
9. But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
10. Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
11. Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
12. When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st;
13. So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
14. So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

### 138. When my love swears that she is made of truth

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

1. When my love swears that she is made of truth,
2. I do believe her, though I know she lies,
3. That she might think me some untutor'd youth.
4. Unlearn'd in the world's false subtleties.
5. Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young,
6. Although she knows my days are past the best,
7. Simply I credit her false-speaking tongue:
8. On both sides thus is simple truth suppress'd.
9. But wherefore\* says she not she is unjust?\*\*
10. And wherefore say not I that I am old?
11. O! love's best habit is in seeming trust,
12. And age in love loves not to have years told:
13. Therefore I lie with her, and she with me,
14. And in our faults by lies we flatter'd be.

Double entendres, puns, multiple denotative meaning: *lies, unjust, habit, told, vainly, simple* \*why \*\*unfaithful

**Sonnets are elevated fixed forms of poetry. They often are love poems. Often these present an argument.**

**English or Shakespearean Sonnet: 14 lines**

**Petrarchan or Italian Sonnet: 14 lines**

\*During Shakespeare's time, England was still using the Julian calendar, and due to various flaws, the seasons were slipping back in time. England would adopt the [Gregorian calendar](#) in 1751 to fix this, which messes up pinpointing the birth of George Washington, among other things. Also, check the Celtic feast of [Beltane](#).

## **Graphic Organizer**

**Introduction paragraph:** Name the author and the title. What is the purpose or message of the poem? (Thesis statement) What ideas does Shakespeare use to reinforce this message? How are literary devices used to support these ideas?

*(Personal statement about the value of love.) Shakespeare's sonnet, "Let me not the marriage of true minds" declares that true love is..... To help reinforce this point, he declares .....(three ideas in poem) He uses (literary terms) to help reinforce this idea.*

**Body Paragraphs:** For sonnets, you can write a paragraph to analyze each quatrain. How does Shakespeare use literary devices in each quatrain of the poem to help prove his point? Give at least two examples per paragraph and correctly cite them. EX: Shakespeare boldly declares that a "marriage of true minds" (1) will not "Admit impediments" (2).

Explain why these examples are effective in convincing us of his point.

**Paragraph two: Quatrain 1(Lead with idea 1)**

**Paragraph three: Quatrain 2 (Lead with idea 2)**

**Paragraph four: Quatrain 3(Lead with idea 3)**

**Paragraph Five (Conclusion):** A restatement of your thesis. Expand this: What *universal* human truth does the sonnet reveal? Since sonnets are often constructed with the couplet as a "conclusion", **use your couplet** as evidence in this paragraph.

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Sonnet Vocabulary

*Write part of speech, definition and SENTENCES*

1. alter ( )
2. belie ( )
3. damasked ( )
4. decline ( )
5. dun ( )
6. eternal ( )
7. flattery ( )
- 9A. habit ( )
- 9B. habit ( )
- 10 impediments ( )
11. Judgment Day ( )
12. lease ( )
13. North Star ( )
14. reek ( )
15. sextant ( )
16. sickle ( )
17. suppressed ( )
18. temperament ( )
19. tempest ( )

20. toll (    )

21 tread (    )

22. untutored (    )

23A. vain (    )

23B. vain (    )

25. wherefore (    )