

SONNET 18 (1609)

by William Shakespeare

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.

ABOUT THE POET

William Shakespeare, born England approx 1564 – died 1616 England

The Tudor Period is generally recognised as a period of economic and cultural prosperity for England. In particular, the reign of Elizabeth 1 (1558–1603) was regarded as a 'golden age' of exploration, poetry, literature and music. Shakespeare's work is the most famous surviving literature from this period.