Writing about Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 18'

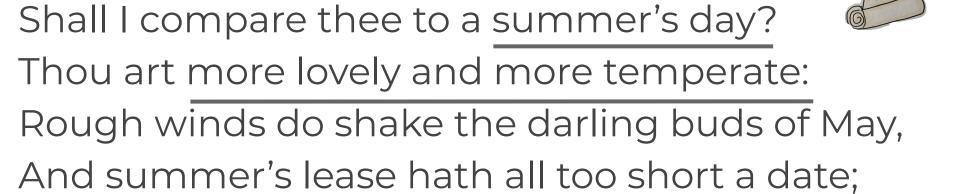
English

Lesson 4 of 'Sonnet 18' by William Shakespeare

Mr. Posthill



'Sonnet 18': First Quatrain



What does the speaker compare the object of his love to?

Why does the speaker say his lover is better?



'Sonnet 18': First Quatrain - Pause and complete What does the speaker compare the object of his love to?

Why does the speaker say his lover is better?



'Sonnet 18': Second Quatrain



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;

What effect does the list of summer's negatives have on the reader?



What effect does the list of summer's negatives have on the reader?

Option 1

The negatives show summer is imperfect.

Option 3

The negatives take away from the lover's beauty.

Option 2

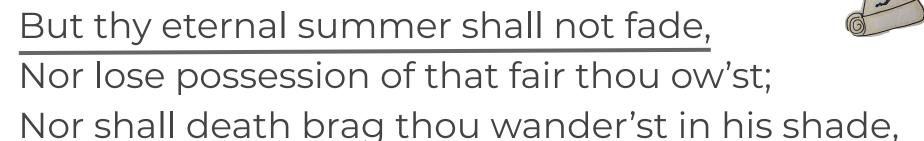
The negatives show that summer is perfect.

Option 4

The negatives show how terrible summer is.



'Sonnet 18': Third Quatrain



When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:

What does the speaker say about the object of his love in contrast to summer?

What does he say will never happen to his love?



'Sonnet 18': Third Quatrain - Pause and complete What does the speaker say about the object of his love in contrast to summer?

What does he say will never happen to his love?



'Sonnet 18': Romantic Couplet

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



What does the speaker say will happen to his lover?



'Sonnet 18': Romantic Couplet - Pause and complete Why does the speaker repeat the line opening 'so long'?

What does the speaker say will happen to his lover?



Copy out and complete the sentences below by filling in the gaps

- 1) The speaker in 'Sonnet 18' compares his l____ to a s____'s d___.
- 2) The speaker says however that summer is i____t and fades too q____.
- 3) The s_____ suggests that his l____ will never f__ and will live forever, through his p____.



True or false

- a) An ABAB rhyme scheme mimics the wooing of the two lovers.
- b) An ABAB rhyme scheme mimics a nursery rhyme.
- c) lambic pentameter mimics a beating heart.
- d) Romantic couplets imply the coming together of the two lovers.



Copy out the two sentences below, adding a quotation from your notes as evidence to back up the point

The speaker compares his lover to a summer's day, but suggests that while summer is imperfect, his lover is perfect.

Quotation -

This suggests that the speaker thinks that his lover is better than a summer's day and highlights his love.



2) Copy out the two sentences below, adding a quotation from your notes as evidence to back up the point

The speaker suggests that while summer is short lived and fleeting, his lover's beauty will never fade.

Quotation -

This contrast suggests that while the speaker's lover is as beautiful as a summer's day, his beauty is eternal and will not fade, unlike the beauty of summer.



3) Copy out the two sentences below, adding a quotation and explanation from your notes

The speaker suggests that his lover will love on forever through his poetry,

Quotation -

Explanation -



Challenge - Answer the following question as part of your review work on this lesson.

How does the structure of 'Sonnet 18' present the relationship between the speaker and his lover?

In your answer you should consider the following:

- How does the metre present the relationship between the two lovers?
- How does the rhyme scheme present the relationship between the two lovers?

