

Tasks

- 1a. Paraphrase Shakespeare's sonnet 18.
- 1b. Sum up the theme of the poem.
2. Analyse the rhyme scheme and explain why the last two lines differ from the rest of the sonnet.
3. Watch a performance by Akala, a British rapper and poet, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSbtKLA3GrY&frags=wn> (minutes 05:35 – 06:15). Discuss whether the music supports the theme of Shakespeare's sonnet 18.



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 dimmed,
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed:
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest 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.

Annotations

temperate: evenly-tempered, calm; **the eye of heaven**: the sun; **ow'st**: to possess; **when in eternal lines...growest**: The poet is using a grafting metaphor in this line. Grafting is a technique used to join parts from two plants with cords so that they grow as one. Thus the beloved becomes immortal, grafted to time with the poet's cords (his "eternal lines").

adapted from <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sonnets/18detail.html>, 29/6/2018

