

**Sonnet 18 Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?  
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 owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

1. What does the speaker compare his love to?
2. Why is the love better? Give all eight reasons.
3. What is the metaphor for the sun?
4. The sun is also personified. Give a definition of personification and explain the ways in which the sun is personified.
5. Sonnets are often split into an octave (the first 8 lines) and a sestet (the last 6 lines). What does the speaker change the topic to in this sonnet and how is it signalled?
6. What is personified in the sestet? In what way do you think the image is effective?
7. What do you think 'When in eternal lines to time thou growest' means?
8. What is the 'this' in the final line and how does it give 'life to thee'?