**Sonnet 18 – Shall I compare thee**

**William Shakespeare**

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| 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 dimmed; |
| 7. | And every fair from fair sometime declines, |
| 8. | By chance, or nature’s changing course untrimmed. |
| 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. |

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Questions

1. What type of poem is this? Supply THREE reasons for your answer.
2. What is the central theme of the poem?
3. What figure of speech do we find in line 1?
4. In which TWO ways is the poet’s friend better than a summer’s day?
5. What are the literal and the figurative meaning of ‘a summer’s day?
6. Describe all the shortcomings of nature according to the poet.
7. What figure of speech do we find in line 3? Which two things are contrasted with each other?
8. Quote TWO metaphors in which the sun is personified.
9. Say briefly what contrast is depicted by the word dimmed.
10. In what way is ‘nature’s course’ changing?
11. Explain the TWO meanings of the word fair in your own words.
12. For what reason will death not be able to boast about the poet’s friend?
13. In what way the friend’ grows to time’? Use your own words.
14. To what does the word this refer in the couplet?
15. In what way will Shakespeare’s poetry live?
16. How will Shakespeare’s poetry give life to his friend?
17. What word shows that Death is proud? Discuss the personification.
18. Identify the speaker's tone in this poem.

1. Do you agree with the speaker's claim that his beloved is more beautiful than summer? Discuss your view.