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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS X
ENGLISH POETRY
CHAPTER 1 - SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DAY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

NOTES

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day

Summary

'Shall I compare Thee to a Summer's Day' is a sonnet written by William Shakespeare (1564-1616) who is considered as the greatest of English Dramatists and Poets. In this sonnet, Shakespeare praises the beauty of his noble friend. He says time will not affect his friend's beauty or diminish it because this poem which is immortal will keep his beauty immortal too. The poet thinks that his love is incomparable.

This sonnet has three quatrains and a couplet. It follows the rhyme scheme *abab cdcd efef and gg*. The ideas are developed in the three quatrains and the conclusion in the couplet.

POETIC DEVICES USED

1. Personification : "the eye of heaven"

"his gold complexion"

"nor shall death brag thou"

"this gives life to thee"

2. Metaphor : "darling buds of May"

"gold complexion"

"thy eternal summer"

"eternal lines to Time"

3. Alliteration : "every fair from fair"

"chance or nature's changing course"

4. Repetition : "more", "summer", "eternal", "this", "so long" etc.