

1. “..... his gold complexion dimmed.” Here ‘his’ refers to –

A) the sun B) the sky C) the poet’s friend D) the poet himself [H.S. = 2019]

Ans. A) the sun.

2. The word ‘dimmed’ suggests that the sun –

A) has set B) has just risen C) has been covered by clouds D) none of these

Ans. C) has been covered by clouds

3. The poet thinks that the summer season is –

A) perfect B) long C) transitory D) very temperate

Ans. C) transitory

4. Nature’s changing course is –

A) dimmed B) temperate C) untrimmed D) lovely [H.S. = 2018 & 2022]

Ans. C) untrimmed.

5. The poet imagines that his friend possesses –

A) eternal summer B) no glory C) momentary happiness D) charm

Ans. A) eternal summer

6. The phrase ‘eternal summer’ suggests –

A) poet’s death B) youthfulness of poet’s friend C) talent of poet’s friend D) death of poet’s friend

Ans. B) youthfulness of poet’s friend

7. “But thy eternal summer shall not fade.” Here ‘thy’ refers to –

A) Shakespeare B) the sun C) Shakespeare’s friend D) the season of summer [H.S. = 2020]

Ans. D) Shakespeare’s friend.

8. “Nor shall death brag thou wand’rest in his shade”-The figure of speech used in the line is –

A) simile B) metaphor C) irony D) personification

Ans. D) personification

9. The friend of the poet will grow –

A) in his youth B) in the eternal lines of the sonnet C) in his own poetry D) in death

Ans. B) in the eternal lines of the sonnet

Q. Give the substance of the poem “Sonnet 18 Shall I Compare Thee to a summer’s Day”.

Ans:-William Shakespeare praises the beauty of his dear friend Earl of Southampton. The poet believes that the beauty of his friend will never fade. The sweet buds of May can be blown down by the rough winds. The summer does not stay long. The sun shines either too hot or sometime becomes overclouded, so all the natural objects are subject to change and decay. But time and death will not fade the beauty of his friend. This sonnet will immortalise the beauty of his friend. His friend and his beauty will remain immortal to the readers of the sonnet. The friend of the poet gets lives and will live forever in this way.

Q. What does the poet compare this young person to? Identify at least three qualities that make the person superior to the simile.

Ans:-“Shall I Compare Thee to a summer’s day?” by William Shakespeare is a famous sonnet. In the sonnet Shakespeare compares the beauty of a young man, his friend to the day of the summer. But he is not sure about the appropriateness to this comparison because of at least three reasons. Firstly the day of the summer is lovely but the beauty of the youth is more enjoyable. He is more temperate, more gentle, more restrained than the day of the summer. Rough winds shake the sweet buds of the flower. Secondly summer stays very short period. The beauty of the youth will live for long. Thirdly the bright sunlight of the summer which would be dimmed is compared. But the beauty of his friend is

compared as eternal summer which shall not fade. Death and Time cannot destroy the beauty of the youth.

Q.State the arguments in the octave and the sestet.

Ans:-In the Sonnet 18, Shakespeare pays the beauty of his young friend. In the Octave, he presents the superiority of the youth. He compares the beauty of his friend with the summer's day which can be changed. Rough winds shake the sweet buds of the flower. The bright sunlight of the summer would be dimmed by clouds. The beauty of the nature decreases and stays for very short period. In the Sestet, Shakespeare established the superiority of the youth. The beauty of the youth is eternal. It shall not fade. The poet explains that his young friend will remain alive in the heart of the readers of this sonnet. The poet has a strong belief that this will remain forever.

Q.How is the described in the sonnet "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

Ans:-Shakespeare's sonnet 18 is one of the most famous sonnets. Here the poet describes the beauties of summer which is subject to change. In the summer the sweet buds are shaken by the rough winds. The sun shines brightly. But sometime the gold complexion of sun is dimmed by the passing clouds. The duration of summer in nature is very short. The beauty of the summer shall fade. Here he builds the image of his friend by comparing his beauty to the summer. Thus the nature of summer becomes rough and cruel. But the friend of the poet is mild, lovely and temperate.