

UNIT 6

SONNET (116)

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

Students Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the unit, students will be able to:

- answer the comprehension questions.
- understand the poet's point of view and theme of the poem.
- paraphrase the poem.
- write a summary of the poem.
- read the poem and give orally and in writing; theme and its development, personal response with justification, recognize literary techniques.

Pre-reading:

- Who is your favourite poet and why?

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit **impediments**, Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,
That looks on **tempests** and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken
Love's not Time's fool, though, rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending **sickle's** compass come,
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it over even to the edge of doom,
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, not no man even loved.

About the Poet

Shakespeare-dramatist/poet was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. He wrote all of his great works that include: Hamlet, Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Othello, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, As you like it, the Merchant of Venice, etc. in the span of twenty five years. He died on April 23, 1616.



Reading and Thinking Skills:

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) What is the poem about?
- ii) Why do trust and understanding hold great importance in relationships?
- iii) What view of love does Shakespeare present?
- iv) Why does the poet not give importance to physical beauty?
- v) How can we describe true love?
- vi) Why can't we fully understand love?
- vii) Love is 'Wandering barks'. What does it mean?
- viii) Why does true love not change with the passage of time?
- ix) What is untrue love?
- x) Why does the poet describe true love as the star?

2. Choose the correct answer.

- i) When the poet says, "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds," he means:
 - (a) love changes with each change in an object of affection.
 - (b) true love endures inspite of changes in circumstances and appearance.
 - (c) a love that endures is worthless.
 - (d) love can be altered to fit any situation.
- ii) A sonnet is a poem which
 - (a) is lyrical and uses figurative language.
 - (b) does not have rhymed lines.
 - (c) consists of fourteen lines and follows a strict rhyme scheme and specific structure.
 - (d) has thirteen lines.
- iii) The poet uses to describe love
 - (a) simile.
 - (b) metaphor.
 - (c) satire.
 - (d) irony.
- iv) True love does not change when the one he or she loves
 - (a) alters.
 - (b) leaves.

- (c) loves back.
(d) stays the same.
- v) The image of an 'ever fixed mark' is that of a
(a) stain.
(b) memory.
(c) mud.
(d) light house.
- vi) The sonnet CXVI is written by
(a) John Keats.
(b) William Shakespeare.
(c) William Woods Worth.
(d) Willam Blake.
- vii) Impediment means
(a) success.
(b) sadness.
(c) happiness.
(d) hurdle.
- viii) 'Wandering Bark' indicates
(a) lost ship.
(b) lost home.
(c) lost love.
(d) lost courage.
- ix) Love's not times fool means
(a) love is success.
(b) love is blind.
(c) love is not at the mercy of time.
(d) love is not everlasting.
- x) Edge of doom means
(a) doomsday.
(b) birthday.
(c) corner of doom.
(d) upper part of doom.

3. Fill in the blanks with rhyming words

- i) minds _____ ii) mark _____
iii) cheeks _____ iv) taken _____
v) proved _____

Critical Thinking:

- Do you agree / disagree with the poet's view of love as eternal and unchanging? Give reasons.

Writing Skills:

Activities:

1. Write down the theme of the poem in your own words.
2. Paraphrase the following lines.
Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments, Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
3. Write a summary of the Sonnet (CXVI).

Research Project

Write a research report highlighting the steps being taken to improve literacy rate in Balochistan.

Vocabulary:

Poetic Devices

Poetry is one of the three major branches of literature, the other being prose and drama. Poetry appeals to the senses and emotions. It does this through poetic devices. These are as follows:

Satire: Satire is a technique employed by the writers to expose and criticize foolishness and corruption of an individual or a society by using humor.

Example: Most political cartoons which we witness every day in the newspapers and magazines are examples of satire. These cartoons criticize some recent actions of political figures in a comical way.

Irony: Irony is a figure of speech where one says the exact opposite of what one thinks. Irony can be described as the discrepancy between what is meant and what is said, what is expected and what happens, what is meant and what is understood or what is said and what is done.

Example: In Romeo Juliet, Juliet drinks the sleeping draught and falls into sleep, hoping to be reunited with Romeo. But this results in both their deaths.

Alliteration: Alliteration uses repeated similar consonants sounds to create an atmosphere.

Example: The seagull squabbles over scraps.

Assonance: Like alliteration, assonance is repetition of similar sounds except the sounds are vowels. They also mimic the action or create an atmosphere.

Example: Double, double, toil and trouble.

Imagery: Imagery is the construction of details used to create mental images in the mind of the reader through visual senses as well as the senses of touch, smell, taste or sound. For example,

Example: The thunder of clouds.	(auditory)
The scent of mangoes.	(smell)
The rugged and rough cliffs.	(touch)
Sweet and juicy peaches.	(taste)

Activity:

Read the poem again and identify the literary techniques used in the poem.