

# Shakespeare's Sonnets Annotated: A Guide to the Bard's Immortal Works

William Shakespeare's sonnets stand as a testament to the enduring power of love, beauty, mortality, and art. Written in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, these 154 poems have captivated readers for centuries with their lyrical language, profound insights, and enigmatic qualities.



## Shakespeare's Sonnets Annotated by William Shakespeare

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Print length : 158 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



To enhance your understanding and appreciation of these literary masterpieces, this article provides a comprehensive annotation of all 154 sonnets. We delve into their historical context, examine their poetic devices, and explore the multifaceted themes that have made them timeless classics.

## Sonnet 1



SHAKE-SPEARES

S O N N E T S.

Neuer before Imprinted.

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AT LONDON

By G. Eld for T. T. and are

to be sold by *William Apley.*

1609.

*From fairest creatures we desire increase,*

**Annotation:** This sonnet opens with the speaker's desire for procreation. The "fairest creatures" refer to beautiful women who are urged to bear children to ensure the continuation of beauty and love.

**Sonnet 18**

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*

**Annotation:** One of the most famous sonnets, it compares the beloved's beauty to the perfection of a summer day. However, the speaker suggests that the beloved's beauty is even more eternal and enduring.

### **Sonnet 29**

*When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,*

**Annotation:** This sonnet explores themes of self-doubt and despair. The speaker feels estranged from both the world and himself, finding solace only in the thought of his beloved.

### **Sonnet 55**

*Not marble, nor the gilded monuments*

**Annotation:** A powerful sonnet about the transformative power of poetry. The speaker asserts that his verses will outlast physical monuments, preserving the memory of his beloved's beauty and love.

### **Sonnet 60**

*Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,*

**Annotation:** This sonnet uses nature imagery to describe the relentless passage of time and the transience of life. The speaker reflects on the inevitable aging and death that await all living beings.

### **Sonnet 71**

*No longer mourn for me when I am dead,*

**Annotation:** A poignant sonnet that addresses the theme of mortality. The speaker requests that his beloved not mourn his death excessively, as his true self will live on through his poetry.

### **Sonnet 90**

*Then hate me when thou wilt; if ever, now;*

**Annotation:** A dramatic sonnet that showcases the speaker's emotional turmoil. He invites his beloved to hate him, acknowledging that their relationship has deteriorated beyond repair.

### **Sonnet 106**

*When in the chronicle of wasted time,*

**Annotation:** A sonnet that examines the passage of time and its effects on memory and love. The speaker reflects on the transformative power of time, which can both heal and wound.

### **Sonnet 116**

*Let me not to the marriage of true minds*

**Annotation:** One of the most enduring sonnets about love. The speaker defines true love as a constant, unwavering bond that transcends both time and circumstance.

### **Sonnet 130**

*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;*

**Annotation:** A controversial sonnet that breaks with the traditional conventions of love poetry. The speaker playfully compares his mistress to a dark-haired beauty, emphasizing her unique and unconventional qualities.

### **Sonnet 147**

*My love is as a fever, longing still*

**Annotation:** A passionate sonnet that explores the intense and consuming nature of love. The speaker compares his love to a fever, describing its constant burning desire and insatiable nature.

### **Sonnet 154**

*The little love-god lying once asleep,*

**Annotation:** A playful and witty sonnet that imagines the love god, Cupid, being accidentally blinded. This blindness leads to misfired arrows, causing chaos and confusion in love relationships.

William Shakespeare's sonnets continue to captivate and inspire readers with their timeless themes, evocative language, and profound insights into the human condition. This annotated guide provides a comprehensive overview of these literary masterpieces, enhancing your understanding and appreciation of their enduring brilliance.

Whether you are a seasoned Shakespeare enthusiast or a newcomer to his works, we invite you to delve into the world of the Bard's sonnets. Allow their enchanting verses to touch your heart, mind, and soul, and discover

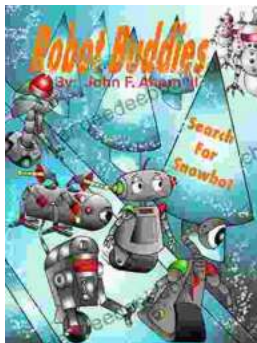
why they have stood the test of time as enduring monuments to the power and beauty of human expression.



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