Daily Bard

QUOTATION SHEET

Shakespeare's Sonnets: key quotation sheet

10 quotations worth knowing by heart, each with a plain-English reading, space for your notes, and a fill-the-gap test.



How to use this sheet

These are the 10 quotations from the **Shakespeare's Sonnets study guide**, set out for revision. Part one gives each quotation with a plain-English reading and space for your own notes. Part two prints them again with a word missing from each line, so that you can test yourself.

- [ ] Read the quotation aloud twice. Sound helps memory more than staring does.
- [ ] In the note space, name one method (a device, a word choice, a feature of the verse) and the effect it has.
- [ ] Add one link: to a theme, to another moment in the text, or to a point of context.
- [ ] A day later, cover part one and complete part two from memory.

Part one: the quotations

> Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
> Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
>
> SONNET 18

Plain English: Shall I liken you to a summer's day? You are lovelier and milder.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
> So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.
>
> SONNET 18

Plain English: As long as people live and read, this poem will live, and will keep you alive.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Like to the lark at break of day arising
> From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;
>
> SONNET 29

Plain English: My mood, like a lark rising at dawn from the gloomy ground, sings at the gate of heaven.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,
> So do our minutes hasten to their end,
>
> SONNET 60

Plain English: Just as waves move towards the stony shore, so our minutes hurry to their end.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
> Bare ruined choirs where late the sweet birds sang.
>
> SONNET 73

Plain English: On the branches shivering in the cold: bare, ruined choir stalls where birds sang not long ago.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,
> To love that well which thou must leave ere long.
>
> SONNET 73

Plain English: You see all this, and it makes you love more strongly what you must soon lose.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Love is not love
> Which alters when it alteration finds
> Or bends with the remover to remove.
>
> SONNET 116

Plain English: Love that changes when things change, or leaves when the other person leaves, is not really love.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
> Within his bending sickle's compass come;
>
> SONNET 116

Plain English: Love is not Time's plaything, even though youthful beauty falls within reach of his curved sickle.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Th' expense of spirit in a waste of shame
> Is lust in action;
>
> SONNET 129

Plain English: Acting on lust is a spending of vital energy in a shameful waste.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
> As any she belied with false compare.
>
> SONNET 130

Plain English: And yet I swear my beloved is as precious as any woman misrepresented by false comparisons.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

Part two: test yourself

Fill each gap from memory, then check against part one. Mark the ones you missed and come back to them tomorrow.

> Shall I compare thee to a _____ day?
> Thou art more lovely and more _____.
>
> SONNET 18

> So long as men can _____ or eyes can see,
> So long _____ this, and this gives life to thee.
>
> SONNET 18

> Like to the lark at break of day _____
> From sullen earth, sings hymns at _____ gate;
>
> SONNET 29

> Like as the waves make _____ the pebbled shore,
> So do our _____ hasten to their end,
>
> SONNET 60

> Upon those boughs which shake _____ the cold,
> Bare _____ choirs where late the sweet birds sang.
>
> SONNET 73

> This thou _____, which makes thy love more strong,
> To love that well _____ thou must leave ere long.
>
> SONNET 73

> Love is not love
> Which alters when it _____ finds
> Or bends with the _____ to remove.
>
> SONNET 116

> _____ not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
> Within his bending _____ compass come;
>
> SONNET 116

Th' _____ of spirit in a waste of shame
Is lust in _____;

SONNET 129

And yet, by _____, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false _____.

SONNET 130

Next steps

Turn three of these quotations into full paragraphs with the **essay planner**, and check your method against the **close reading toolkit**. For a small daily dose of the language, **Daily Bard** shows one passage each morning with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.



A page of Shakespeare, every day.

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