

GRADE 9: POEM No.2

Study the following poem and the notes. Answer the questions which follow:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds (Sonnet 116)

William Shakespeare - 1564-1616

Let me not to the marriage of true minds	1
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,	5
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;	10
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,	
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.	
If this be error, and upon me prov'd,	
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.	

Glossary: (Meaning of words)

impediments – obstacles, things that get in the way

alters – changes

tempests - storms

bark - sailing ship

worth – how valuable it is

taken – measured, recorded

sickle – a large blade for cutting wheat / symbolises death

doom – end of time, end of the world

Summary:

Line 1/2: *I do not believe that there are any obstacles to true love.*

Line 2/3/4: *True love does not change or stop when other things change.*

Line 5/6: Oh no! True love is unchanging; it is a lighthouse that can look on storms and not be shaken by them.

Line 7/8: True love is like the star guiding every ship that is trying to find its way on the sea.

Line 9/10: Time cannot beat love, even though Time makes young people old and die.

Lines 11/12: Love is greater than Time's hours and weeks because it lasts forever, to the edge of doom.

Lines 13/14: If anyone proves me wrong about this, then I have never written anything, and no man has ever loved anyone.'

POETIC DEVICES:

-Line 1: Enjambment – The first line runs onto the next line. There is no comma or full stop.

- Personification (lines 5/6: 'an ever-fixed mark that looks on tempests...')

(line 9/10: 'though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass
come')

QUESTIONS:

1. What type of sonnet is this?
2. What is the message of this sonnet?
3. Do you agree with the poet's idea about the nature of true love? Explain your answer.
- 4.1 What are the last two lines of this particular sonnet called?
- 4.2 Explain the last two lines in your own words.
5. Provide an example of personification from the poem. Explain your example in your own words.