**SONNET 18**

The poem hasn’t a real title, in fact it calls “Sonnet 18” or “Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?”, since poets didn’t use to give a name to their sonnets, the researches to simplify the identification of the poems use to take as the title the first line of the poem. So the reader can’t make conjecture or expectations from the title.

The poem is a sonnet, because it is organized into 14 lines, it follows the Shakespearean model, also called Elizabethan model because is made up of 3 quatrains and rhyming couplet. Being a sonnet it will tell about something intimate, private. In the 3 quatrains the poem will tell about some different aspects of the problem and the rhyming couplet will give the reader a summary of the of the problem. The rhyme in the three quatrains is alternate and in the last stanza there is a rhyming couplet. The three quatrains are connected together by means of the word “summer” (lines 1-4-9), which stands for beauty, youth, spirit strength, hope and all positive meaning.

The poem begins with a question: the poet ask to the interlocutor, a friend of him if he can compare the friend to a Summer’s day. Reading this expression the intelligent reader can imagine that the poet is very thankful with his interlocutor. In fact if I compare a person to a Summer’s day means that he is very important for me, because the word “Summer’s day” is connected to idea of vitality, it is connected to that period of year when almost of people are happy, for example for the weather, it is usually sunny, whereas the Winter is connected, in almost people’s minds, to idea of death. After this words Shakespeare goes farther to the words he has just said, in fact he affirms that his friend is better than a Summer’s day, because he is more lovely and because Summer ends too early, his friend is so great that he never ends.

The second stanza begins with a negative tone, because the poet said that everything, the fairest declines too, can have an end for the nature’s course. The poet tells about something negative, it seems that nothing can escape to death and forgetfulness.

But when the reader loses hope, Shakespeare restart in the third quatrain a positive and hopeful tone. The poet said that his friend’s summer and fair wouldn’t have to disappear or die. This is the objective of the poem, the poet wants to consecrate his friends in order that his friend’s memories becomes eternal, also after his death.

In the last stanza the poet say a verdict, which is connected to the objective of the sonnet, in fact he says that as long as people would read the sonnet, the words he wrote, would give life to his friend’s memory.

The text begins with a question, which means that the poet wants to create a kind of dialogue between him and his friend. This choice contributes to give the text a sense of concreteness and a realistic tone. The intelligent reader can note that the alternating rhyme seems to play tit for tat in the poet’s mind, when he talks about his friend, first of all in the first stanza.

There are some word that contribute to create an opposite imagine of the situation, for example “temperate” and “do shake”, “shines” and “dimm'd”, “fair” and “declines”, “eternal” and “changing”, “eternal” and “Death”.

There a lot of repetition in the poem because the poet wants to enter into the reader’s mind the phrases he retains more important. For example there are three anaphors: “and” lines 4-6-7, “nor” lines 10-11 and “so long”, last two lines. This word are always in the centre of the stanza, because they constitute the nucleon of poet’s thought. The word “Summer’s day” is an allegory, because it stands, as I said earlier, for a positive person, with very good value. The poet uses this expression to sum all he want to say about his friend in one expression, easy to remember and to make the poem more realistic and concrete.