Sonnet XVIII

The title of this Shakespeare’s sonnet is “Sonnet XVIII” and considering it, the intelligent reader can immagine that it is probably contained in a collection of sonnet because it had a number (numer eighteen) neare the word “sonnet” in the title. The intelligent reader can also immagine that it is dedicated to the “Fair Youth” because the 90% of Shakespeare’s sonnet are dedicated to him, however you cuoldn’t be sure because the title doesn’t say anything about him.

Considering the Lay-out, the reader notes that the sonnet is composed by two quatrains and one couplet. The first quatrain begins with a question in which the narrator asks to someone if he shall compare someone lo a summer’s day. In the second line the reader understands that the narrator answers to himself. You can noticed this beacuse there aren’t question marks. In these lines, the narrator identifys the “Fair Youth” with the elementes of the nature like summer that is cited since in the first lines.

Therefore, the sonnet is opening with a dialogue between the speaking voice and the “thee” that is the old form to express “you”. The question and the answer are both pronunced to the speaking voice and the question is rhetoric. It means that the speaking voice makes to him the question and also the answer. According to the poet, “you” is best than summer that it is kown that is the best season in the year and the time when all things in the world become better. The poet uses the semantic field of the nature through summer.

The second quatrain refers to the things that in reality aren’t beatiful. In this quatrin there are some references with the semantic felds about the time.

The narrator understands that there is a problem that refers to the fame of the “you” beacause he knows that sooner or later people will forget about him. Therefore the solution that find the narrator is to write the lines to magnify the poem that makes him immortal (in the distich)