

Lesson 11 - January 21st, 2025. W. Shakespeare, Sonnet XX. Male and Female Sexuality.

A woman's face with nature's own hand painted
Hast thou, the master-mistress of my passion;
A woman's gentle heart, but not acquainted
With shifting change as is false women's fashion;
An eye more bright than theirs, less false in rolling,
Gilding the object whereupon it gazeth;
A man in hue, all hues in his controlling,
Which steals men's eyes and women's souls amazeth.
And for a woman wert thou first created,
Till nature as she wrought thee fell a-doting,
And by addition me of thee defeated
By adding one thing to my purpose nothing.
But since she pricked thee out for women's pleasure,
Mine be thy love and thy love's use their treasure.



STEP 1

Going back to the previous lesson:

what have we learnt about the sonnet so far?

The sonnet structure

[Listen](#) to London Grammar's Rooting for you
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[Translation](#)



STEP 2

- [Sonnet XX](#)

- [IT Translation](#)

STEP 3

Layout for structure and denotative analysis

Now take the overall text into consideration:

- What kind of poem do you think it is?
- Who is speaking?
- To whom?
- What is the speaker's intention?

STEP 4

Consider structure.

- What is the function of the different stanzas?
- How do they make sense?

STEP 5

Consider the **layers of language use**

- level of sound (rhyme- rhythm - tone - effect)
- level of semantics (words chosen, use of tenses, ...)
- level of formality/informality (formal language, informal register/s)
- ideal listener/reader

HOMEWORK: read [the article](#) and feel ready to discuss your opinion during the next lesson