

William Shakespeare

A MINI-BIOGRAPHY

William Shakespeare--Life



- Born: 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon, England
- Primarily known as a playwright
- Popularised a standard rhyme scheme for sonnets
- Died: 1616

William Shakespeare—Selected Works

■ Plays

- *Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

■ Poems

- Sonnet 18—Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
- Sonnet 80—Oh, how I faint when I of you do write,

Sonnet 18

By William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And oft' is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd:
But thy eternal Summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wanderest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Sonnet 43

By William Shakespeare

When most I wink, then do mine eyes best see,
For all the day they view things unrespected;
But when I sleep, in dreams they look on thee,
And darkly bright are bright in dark directed.
Then thou, whose shadow shadows doth make bright,
How would thy shadow's form form happy show
To the clear day with thy much clearer light,
When to unseeing eyes thy shade shines so!
How would, I say, mine eyes be blessed made
By looking on thee in the living day,
When in dead night thy fair imperfect shade
Through heavy sleep on sightless eyes doth stay!
All days are nights to see till I see thee,
And nights bright days when dreams do show thee me.