

UNIT-I

DIET & ENGINEERING -TRB ENGLISH

IMPORATANT STUDY MATERIALS

Chaucer to Shakespeare

Shakespeare: Sonnets

(12,18,29,30,33,53,54,60,65,73,90,94,107,116,144)

William Shakespeare (26 April 1564– 23 April 1616) was an English poet, playwright, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet, and the "Bard of Avon". His extant works, including collaborations, consist of approximately 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Sometime between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, at age 49, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, which has stimulated considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, and religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others.

Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories, and these are regarded as some of the best work ever produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered some of the finest works in the English language.^[2] In his

last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights.

Many of his plays were published in editions of varying quality and accuracy during his lifetime. In 1623, however, John Heminges and Henry Condell, two friends and fellow actors of Shakespeare, published a more definitive text known as the First Folio, a posthumous collected edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognized as Shakespeare's.^[7] It was prefaced with a poem by Ben Jonson, in which Shakespeare is hailed, presciently, as "not of an age, but for all time"

In the 20th and 21st centuries, his works have been repeatedly adapted and rediscovered by new movements in scholarship and performance. His plays remain highly popular, and are constantly studied, performed, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.

Shakespeare's Sonnets -is the title of a collection of 154 sonnets by William Shakespeare, which covers themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality. The first 126 sonnets are addressed to a young man; the last 28 to a woman.

The sonnets were first published in a 1609 quarto with the full stylized title: *SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS. Never before Imprinted.* (although sonnets 138 and 144 had previously been published in the 1599 miscellany *The Passionate Pilgrim*). The quarto ends with "A Lover's Complaint", a narrative poem of 47 seven-line stanzas written in rhyme royal – though some scholars have argued convincingly against Shakespeare's authorship of the poem.¹

The sonnets to the young man express overwhelming, obsessional love. The main issue of debate has always been whether it remained platonic or became physical.^[3] The first 17 poems, traditionally called the procreation sonnets, are addressed to the young man urging him to marry and have children in order to immortalize his beauty by passing it to the next generation. Other sonnets express the speaker's love for the young man; brood upon loneliness, death, and the transience of life; seem to criticize the young man for preferring a rival poet; express ambiguous feelings for the speaker's mistress; and pun on the poet's name. The final two sonnets are allegorical treatments of Greek epigrams referring to the "little love-god" Cupid.

The publisher, Thomas Thorpe, entered the book in the Stationers' Register on 20 May 1609:

Thorpe. Entered for his copied under the hands of master Wilson and master Lowness Wardens a booked called Shakespeare's sonnets

Whether Thorpe used an authorized manuscript from Shakespeare or an unauthorized copy is unknown. George Eld printed the quarto, and the run was divided between the booksellers William Aspley and John Wright

Sonnet 12 is a procreation sonnet within the Fair Youth sequence. In the sonnet, the poet goes through a series of images of mortality, such as a clock, a withering flower, a barren tree and autumn, etc. Then, at the "turn" at the beginning of the third quatrain, the poet admits that the young man to whom the poem is addressed must go among the "wastes of time" just as all of the other images mentioned. The only way he can fight against Time, Shakespeare proposes, is by breeding and making a copy of himself.

Sonnet 18, often alternatively titled *Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*, is one of the best-known of 154 sonnets written by the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare. Part of the Fair Youth sequence (which comprises sonnets 1–126 in the accepted numbering stemming from the first edition in 1609), it is the first of the cycle after the opening sequence now described as the procreation sonnets.

In the sonnet, the speaker compares his beloved to the summer season, and argues that his beloved is better. He also states that his beloved will live on forever through the words of the poem. Scholars have found parallels within the poem to Ovid's *Tristia* and *Amores*, both of which have love themes. Sonnet 18 is written in the typical Shakespearean sonnet form, having 14 lines of iambic pentameter ending in a rhymed couplet. Detailed exegeses have revealed several double meanings within the poem, giving it a greater depth of interpretation.

The poem starts with a flattering question to the beloved—"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" The beloved is both "more lovely and more temperate" than a summer's day. The speaker lists some negative things about summer: it is short—"summer's lease hath all too short a date"—and sometimes the sun is too hot—"Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines." However, the beloved has beauty that will last forever, unlike the fleeting beauty of a summer's day. By

putting his love's beauty into the form of poetry, the poet is preserving it forever. "So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see, So long lives this, and this gives life to thee." The lover's beauty will live on, through the poem which will last as long as it can be read.

Sonnet 29 is part of the Fair Youth sequence (which comprises sonnets 1-126 in the accepted numbering stemming from the first edition in 1609). In the sonnet, the speaker bemoans his status as an outcast and failure but feels better upon thinking of his beloved. Sonnet 29 is written in the typical Shakespearean sonnet form, having 14 lines of iambic pentameter ending in a rhymed couplet.

Sonnet 30 was published in the Quarto in 1609. It is also part of the Fair Youth portion of the Shakespeare Sonnet collection where he writes about his affection for an unknown young man. While it is not known exactly when Sonnet 30 was written, most scholars agree that it was written between 1595 and 1600. It is written in Shakespearean form, comprising fourteen lines of iambic pentameter, divided into three quatrains and a couplet.

Within the sonnet, the narrator spends time remembering and reflecting on sad memories of a dear friend. He grieves of his shortcomings and failures, while also remembering happier memories. The narrator uses legal metaphors throughout the sonnet to describe the sadness that he goes through when his friend is forever gone and only exists in his memories. Then in the final couplet, the narrator changes his tone about the failures, as if the losses are now merely gains for himself.

Summary Sonnet 30 starts with Shakespeare mulling over his past failings and sufferings, including his dead friends and that he feels that he hasn't done anything useful. But in the final couplet Shakespeare comments on how thinking about his friend helps him to recover all of the things that he's lost, and it allows him stop mourning over all that has happened in the past.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 33 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young man. This sonnet is the first of what are sometimes called the estrangement sonnets, numbers 33-36: poems concerned with the speaker's response to an unspecified "sensual fault" mentioned in (35) committed by his beloved.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 53, presumably addressed to the same young man as the other sonnets in the first part of the sequence, raises some of the most common themes of the sonnet: the sublime beauty of the beloved, the weight of tradition, and the nature and extent of art's power. As in Sonnet 20, the beloved's beauty is compared to both a man's (Adonis) and a woman's (Helen).

Sonnet 54 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence. These sonnets are written from the perspective of an older man displaying his fondness of a younger man. It uses an extended metaphor to develop the theme of the beauty of the beloved and the preservative power of verse.

Synopsis Sonnet 54 by William Shakespeare is divided into three quatrains and one heroic couplet. The first two couplets work together, illustrating both the scentless canker bloom^[4] and the scented rose. In the first two lines of the first quatrain he says that beauty is more precious as a result of truth. In the next two he gives the example of a rose. He says that beyond its looks, we prize the rose for its scent. This scent is its "truth" or essence. In the second quatrain Shakespeare compares the rose to the canker bloom. They are similar in every way other than scent. Shakespeare use of the words "play" and "wantonly" together imply that "play" has a sexual connotation.^[5] In the third quatrain the author compares the death of the two flowers. The canker bloom dies alone and "unrespected", while roses do not die alone, for "of their sweet deaths are sweetest odours made". In the final section, the heroic couplet, Shakespeare makes the point of the sonnet clear. He says that his poetry will distill the beautiful boy's beauty, his truth, even after it fades. It is interesting to compare this distillation to sonnet 5, where marriage was the distiller and beauty was distilled.^[6] In either sonnet one gets the same result of the distillation process, which is beauty. However, in sonnet 5 the distillation process was through marriage, and in sonnet 54 it is the narrator's verse that distills this beauty. This the final product of the distillation process is brought to one in the final couplet of the poem, thus making the poem like the distillation process. This leaves the product of the verse, which is truth, enforcing the narrator's promise to leave only truth through his verse.

Sonnet 60 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young beloved.

Synopsis Sonnet 60 focuses upon the theme of the passing of time. This is one of the major themes of Shakespeare's sonnets, it can be seen in Sonnet 1 as well. Like sonnets 1-126, Sonnet 60 is addressed to "a fair youth" whose identity is debated.

In the last two lines (the couplet) the speaker says that his verse will live on and therefore make the beauty of the beloved immortal. The sonnet compares minutes to waves on a pebbled shore regularly replacing each other. Time is also depicted as a gift giver and also as a gift destroyer

Sonnet 65 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young man.

Synopsis This sonnet is a continuation of Sonnet 64, and is an influential poem on the aspect of Time's destruction. Shakespeare also offers an escape from Time's clasp in his end couplet, suggesting that the love and human emotion he has used through his writing will test Time and that through the years the black ink will still shine bright. Shakespeare begins this sonnet by listing several seemingly vast and unbreakable things which are destroyed by time, then asking what chance beauty has of escaping the same fate. A main theme is that many things are powerful, but nothing remains in this universe forever, especially not a fleeting emotion such as love. Mortality rules over the universe and everything is perishable in this world, so it is only through the timeless art of writing that emotion and beauty can be preserved.

Sonnet 73, one of the most famous of William Shakespeare's 154 sonnets, focuses upon the theme of old age, with each of the three quatrains encompassing a metaphor. The sonnet is pensive in tone, and although it is written to a young friend (See: Fair Youth), it is wholly introspective until the final couplet, which finally turns to the person who is addressed (the "thou" in line one). Joseph Kau suggests that Samuel Daniel had a fair amount of influence on this sonnet and that Shakespeare's immediate source of the *impres*a, or motto, "*Qua me alit me extinguit*" came from Geoffrey Whitney's *A Choice of Emblems* (London, 1586)

Sonnet 90 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young man.

Synopsis : The sonnet continues the themes of the breakdown of the relationship between the youth and the poet. The poet suggests that the youth should reject him now that everyone seems to be against him. The poet exhorts the youth not to wait to reject him until after these other, less important, sorrows have passed. At least if he is rejected now, his other problems will pale into insignificance.

Sonnet 94 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young man.

summary

The first eight lines of this very difficult sonnet are devoted to the description of a certain kind of impressive, restrained person: "They that have pow'r to hurt" and do not use that power. These people seem not to do the thing they are most apparently able to do—they "do not do the thing they most do show"—and while they may move others, they remain themselves "as stone," cold and slow to feel temptation. People such as this, the speaker says, inherit "heaven's graces" and protect the riches of nature from expenditure. They are "the lords and owners of their faces," completely in control of themselves, and others can only hope to steward a part of their "excellence."

The next four lines undergo a remarkable shift, as the speaker turns from his description of those that "have pow'r to hurt and will do none" to a look at a flower in the summer. He says that the summer may treasure its flower (it is "to the summer sweet") even if the flower itself does not feel terribly cognizant of its own importance ("to itself it only live and die"). But if the flower becomes sick—if it meets with a "base infection"—then it becomes more repulsive and less dignified than the "basest weed." In the couplet, the speaker observes that it is behavior that determines the worth of a person or a thing: sweet things which behave badly turn sour, just as a flower that festers smells worse than a weed.

Sonnet 107 is a member of the Fair Youth sequence, in which the poet expresses his love towards a young man

Synopsis This poem repeats the theme of others, notably sonnet 18, that the poem itself will survive human mortality, and both the poet and Fair Youth will achieve immortality through it. In this case all the hazards of an unpredictable future are added to the inevitability of mortality.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 was first published in 1609. Its structure and form are a typical example of the Shakespearean sonnet. The poet begins by stating he should not stand in the way of "the marriage of true minds", and that love cannot be true if it changes for any reason; true love should be constant, through any difficulties. In the seventh line, the poet makes a nautical reference, alluding to love being much

like the north star is to sailors. Love also should not fade with time; instead, true love is, as is the polar star, "ever-fixèd" and lasts forever.

"The movement of 116, like its tone, is careful, controlled, laborious...it defines and redefines its subject in each quatrain, and this subject becomes increasingly vulnerable".It starts out as motionless and distant, remote, independent—then moves to be "less remote, more tangible and earthbound",and the final couplet brings a sense of "coming back down to earth". Ideal love is deteriorating throughout the sonnet and continues to do so through the couplet.

Sonnet 144 (along with Sonnet 138) was published in the *Passionate Pilgrim* (1599). Shortly before this, Francis Meres referred to Shakespeare's Sonnets in his handbook of Elizabethan poetry, *Palladis Tamia, or Wit's Treasurie*, published in 1598, which was frequently talked about in the literary centers of London taverns. Shakespeare's sonnets are mostly addressed to a young man, but the chief subject of Sonnet 127 through Sonnet 152 is the "dark lady". Several sonnets portray a conflicted relationship between the speaker, the "dark lady" and the young man. Sonnet 144 is one of the most prominent sonnets to address this conflict.

Geoffrey Chaucer 14th 1340-1400

- Age of Chaucer is a link bet the old and the New – age of transition 1373 – he began his Canterbury tales.
- In his Decameron, Boccaccio furnished the ex for Chaucer's Canterbury tales greatest work of the English period.
- C borrowed ideas for his C.T from Boccacio's Decameron .
- Fatter of English Poetry reason 1. set up the standard English Lang 2. First to teach the art of versification. C combines in himself the best elements of French and English culture. This is evident by comparing him with his two contemporaries – Langland and Gower .Langland seeks to revive old English tradition Gower stands for foreign culture chaucer stands midway bet Langland and Gower.
- was familiar with the works of Virgil and Ovid and Latin prose writers.

- The Black Death Occurred (4 times) in England during the reign of Edward III (1348-49)

Period

Period

2. The book of the Duchess(1369) offer consolation

Italian

English

To the ofGauant to the death of his French life “House of the fame”

Wife Blanche

Roman de la rose

- allegory-love poem transacted in to English. Hundred years of war began (C.T – greater work of this period) in the reign of Edward III

C – The poet

C Introduced 7 line decasyllabic stanza riming abab bcc known as rime royal was also called Triolus verse, Cressida verse, the Chaucerian stanza.

- 7 line stanza (decasykabic)
➤ 10 syllable couplet called heroic couplet (the five beat line, in stanza or couplet)

Introduced

- Terzarima a section to “The complaint to his Lady”
➤ Popularised Freeh formes – Roundel and the balled

C s Lang

(14th imp for growth growth of Eng. Lang during the first half of 14th French was the chief lang of nobility.

- In the age of Chaucer there were four dialects prevalent in England-northern southern, the East midland and the west midland. Chaucer chose midland dialect because it was also used by the upper classes of society and it was really living.

- Poet of the lusty spring – Chaucer

first great Eng humorist – Chaucer

In C's P. to C. tales he gives an account of (14th social and religious condition – because religion is a part of life by the middle of (14th Eng was becoming the common tongue of the nation. parliament was opened by an English speech in 1363.

- The kind of humour C and Shakespeare reveals based on insight and sympathy 30 pilgrims – each has to tell a story

(The discussion was held at a “Tabard Inn south wark ”)

- On the way to the shrine of Thomas Becket Prologue is a picture of medieval society but it is in the process of disintegration.

- It tells about the society

The knight and “The squire – represent old tradition of chivalry

The friar, the monk, The pardoner parish priest, Oxford scholar – denounced the abuses and corruptions of the church.

A shipman – a blend of merchant

Sailor and pirate –merchant, a number of guild members Miller, the Manciple, the Reeve and Wife of Bath – ugly things about the medieval church.

The friar – bears witness to the worldliness and corruptions growing up among the clergy. He was so popular with the Franklin and respectable women of the town – licensed to hear confessions. Let the sinner give silver to the poor Friars and his sins were remitted at once.

Friar rough to be led to poverty but he led a merry and jovial life. paying little heed to religious concerns moved about like a master or Pope.

Wife of bath

C's masterly creation quite respectable women in the society.

- Dressed fashionably
- First he go up to altar he make offerings

➤ Wide traveler – had been to Jerusalem

30 pilgrims including the host belong to diverse professions

Knight and his son – represent war like elements

Represent by the man of law the Doctor, the oxford clerk and the poet – The

learned and the liberal

The merchant and The shipman – Higher commercial community

The wife of Bath – Expert cloth maker

Haberdasher and his associates – Belong to the class of smaller London traders and manufacturers

Plowman, the miller and the Franklin- Agriculturists

Maniple and Reeve – Upper servants represent down

Yeoman and cook – Lower servants represent country

The monk, The monastery the prioress from her convent, her attendant priests, the village parson, the roaming – Religious order people.

Friar, the pardoner and the sunnour – Religious order people.

C gives distinctions among these characters by pointing out the difference in their clothes, manner of speech habits and tendencies and the characteristics of each profession. These are real human beings.

Example:- The host, the reeve, the man of Law, the Franklin are drawn from living models.

Some of the characters seem to live even today

Example:- The knight, The squire

The prologue is rightly called – the social picture of England of the late 14th as

Dryden says “ There is God’s plenty” Chaucer is “the poet of the lusty spring” –

says H.A. Beers

Characters of C.T

The knight, a squire and yeoman – military profession.

A prioress, a nun (her secretary) – connected with Christian church Ecclesiastical group. member of RC religious community. A monk, A friar, A summoner, A pardoner, A poor parson, parish priest, a clerk of oxford (student of divinity)

➤ A lawyer, A physician and many miscellaneous

Minor characters

A Franklin, A Merchant, A Shipman A Miller, A Cook, A Manipale, A Reeve (law officer in UK), A haberdasher (shop that makes sells men's clothes), A carpenter, A weaver, a dyer, A tapycer, A ploughman and a cloth maker.

The knight – Perfect gentleman fond of love the truth, chivalry and honour.

- Representative of warfare.

The squire – Proud of his appearance

- Love sick

The prioress – Called Madame Eglantine =(only two women characters)

-nun, sings divine songs

-has pity only for dogs

-engraved a crowd "A" and has a golden brooch with an inscription.

"Love conquers very thing"

The Wife of Bath – unrefined and rough in temperament

Important character - Married 5 times and had Many lovers in her youth. She had made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Rome Boulogne and Cologne.

Monk – Supervisor of the monastery estate negligent in his duty. Hunting is his pastime which is actually unsuited to his profession.

Friar – Gay and merry – gets money for confessions – likes gossiping and flatterer – rotally immoral and corruptive.

Summour – His duty is to bring sinners for trial before a church court

- impious, gentle rascal
- he can send his mistress to a sinner for 12 months for a bottle of wine.

Pardoner – Sells intelligence and gets more profit. He sells a pillow case in the name of virgin Mary's veil, a piece of canvas as the saint peter's sail, the bones of a pig as relicks of a saint.

By presenting these characters, c has reflected the persons embodying the churches of England in the (14th by C.T. C's intention is to bring out the follies and foibles of the society. He expects a complete change in the conditions of the churches.

Chaucer – 1340 – 1400

Born in London

Chaucer lived during the period of three kings –Edward III Richard II and Henry IV

During the rule of Edward III – there was medieval civilization in England

Chaucer wrote knight's tale – it was a chronicle of historical accounts.

1. Trade expansion – resulted in increase of wealth
2. Living conditions of the people – Miserable
3. Terrific epidemic called Black Death many people died
4. During the French wars the condition of the country –worsened
5. There was necessity for taxing the people - these situations brought the symptoms of social utmost.

100 years of war began in his reign King Richard II was unwise. The conflict between the king and the people. In the age of Chaucer evil increased to a greater extent. There was corruption in churches. Chaucer lived in this period. He wanted

to reveal the shocking state of things of the churches. There was also another prominent person lived at this age.

John Wyclif – morning star of reformation

- wanted to revive the spiritual Christianity of England
- wrote religious pamphlets.
- Produced the complete Eng version of the Bible

Later part of the (14th– period of social unrest and the beginning of a new religious movement and also new learning.

Petrarch (1304-74) and Boccaccio (1313-75) – considered to be the leaders of this revival.

- They spread the spirit of humanism in England. This situation later on gave rise to renaissance. But the spirit of humanism was infused in Chaucer's age.

The divine comedy of Dante was the final and supreme expression of the world of medieval Christendom. The Oxford scholars – Duns, Scotus

William Occam – are among last of the medieval school men

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400)

Son of John Chaucer. After his marriage, he became a valet in the king's chamber.

Chaucer died in 1400 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey. The place afterwards came to be called 'poet's corner' [FP – Free Period, IP – Italian Period]

ENGLISH PERIOD

Works

1369 – The Book of the Duchess – (FP)

1372 – Troilus and Criseyde – (IP)

1377 – The Parliament of Fowls (IP)

1379 – The House of Fame (IP)

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1384 – The Legend of Good women – (unfinished work) (adapted from latinwone of BoccaciosDe Claris Mulieribus)

1387 – The Centerbury tales (EP)

1391 – The complaint of Venus(EP)

1399 – the complaint of Chaucer to His Empty Purse. Chaucer was influenced by the Italian master of Dante and Boccaccio.

English period

In his Decameron, Boccaccio furnished the example for C. C. T – greatest wore of English period.

Chaucer – Not a poet of the people.

- Court poet
- wrote only for the high class readers and cultured society
- never took painful subjects
- not a serious reformer
- rightly called the morning star of Renaissance
- Mostly written in ‘out of door atmosphere’
- Father of English poetry
- First great painter of characters
- First great English humorist
- Calls himself ‘an unlettered man’
- First creator of human characters in English literature
- Poet of the lusty spring

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