

The figures of speech of this poem are traditional and they have the Elizabethan felicity and grace. The images are also well chosen. “**A summer’s fay**” very effectively implies the beauty of the youth. The “**rose**” metaphor is skillfully humanized in the phrase “**darling buds of May**”. The word “**temperate**” functions as a metaphor implying the contrast between the fading rose and the unfading youth. “**Summer’s lease**” adds the concept of property so that its association with flowers seems quite inevitable; “**the eye of heaven**” introduces a link between the addressee and the higher spheres with equal ease. The synecdoche, “**every fair**” refers to very fair things and generalizes the beauty of the youth, which is subject to change. This change has been presented with the personification of “**Death**”. A struggle between “**Death**” and the youth is deathless. The poet’s “**eternal lines**” will create the eternal summer, with classical evocations of an earthy paradise, only if human race continues.

This is a Shakespearean sonnet and bears the traces of Elizabethan period. Shakespeare likes other English sonneteers borrowed the Petrarchan sonnet form. The praise of the beauty of the addressee is in tune with the Petrarchan tradition. However, Shakespeare differs from Petrarchan rhyme scheme. Petrarch’s rhyme scheme is *abab abba cde cde or cde dcd*. But Shakespeare’s rhyme scheme is *abab cdcd efef gg*. Moreover, Petrarch’s sonnet lines are hendecasyllabic (eleven syllabic) while Shakespeare’s lines are then syllabic.

The words selected by Shakespeare are lucid, and easily managed to fit to the unaccented and accented beats and to the particular rhyme scheme. They largely contribute to the lyricism of the poem with ease and grace. The smooth running lines of the poem reflect a playful movement quite befitting to the playful tone of the poem. However, the last two lines take a serious turn that suggests a note of pride and confidence in keeping with the fashion of the Elizabethan period.