

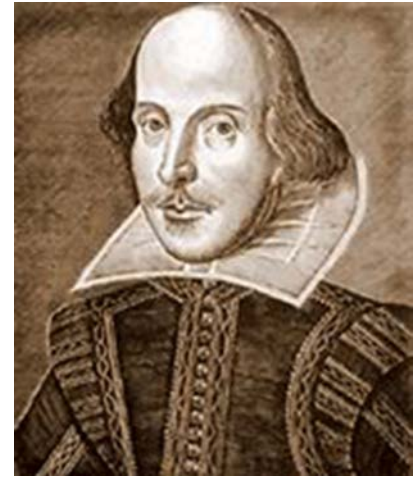
# Task 1

Read the following Sonnet by William Shakespeare. Write a short text in which you

- note down the impression this text has had on you (personal response)
- reflect previous experiences with poems (and their interpretation) which you may have had
- note down some ideas of what this text might mean
- note down what is still unclear to you
- use techniques to interpret poetry which you already know

William Shakespeare: Sonnet Nr. 73

*That time of year thou mayst in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou seest the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west,  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou seest the glowing of such fire  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed whereon it must expire  
Consumed with that which it was nourished by.  
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,  
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.*



How do you feel about my  
Sonnet Nr 73?

## Kommentar

Bei unserem Projekt schilderten viele Schüler, dass sie am Anfang mit viel Respekt oder Vorbehalten an die Aufgabe herangetreten waren, da sie Shakespeare für äusserst schwierig hielten. Deshalb ist es wichtig, ihnen bei der ersten Begegnung mit dem Gedicht genügend Zeit zu geben, um ihre Person in ein Verhältnis zur Sache zu bringen. Als Beispiel ist Angelicas Bearbeitung gezeigt.

## Sonnet 73

### First/ spontaneous interpretation

This sonnet talks about a woman and a man in love. The man talks about how the woman sees the atmosphere of autumn or just a cold but nice day in him. This atmosphere is established more and more over the sonnet. There is on the one hand a very positive and on the other hand a very negative, gloomy atmosphere.

I think this atmosphere could be set equal to the love between the two of them. There are nevertheless some great contradictions in the sonnet.

On the one hand he talks about how his feelings, his love grows less strong/ fades away, but on the other hand he speaks of a fire and of glowing which would rather be a symbol for passion. To solve this contradiction, we could say that, when he talks about the "glowing of fire" he makes a sort of backflash, remembering the spring of his feelings, when his feelings emerged.

He also says that he has been a young burning fire, but now he has grown old(er) and his love has consumed everything (like a fire all the wood) and his love as decreased. But he also says that there is still passion for the woman in him. In the last two lines it is explained, that she sees all this and it makes her love stronger so that she can love, what she will lose sooner or later anyway (latest when he dies, or sooner, when their feelings die of).