



Square each quatrain and circle the couplet

Sonnet 73

by William Shakespeare



That time of year thou may'st in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.
In me thou see'st 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 see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.
This thou perceivest, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

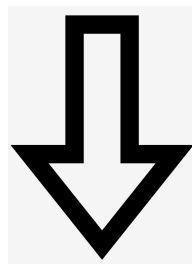
To make answering questions easier, look at the paraphrasing of the sonnet on right to make the translation easier.



SONNET 73 PARAPHRASE

That time of year thou mayst in me behold	In me you can see that time of year
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang	When a few yellow leaves or none at all hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,	On the branches, shaking against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.	Bare ruins of church choirs where lately the sweet birds sang.
In me thou seest the twilight of such day	In me you can see only the dim light that remains
As after sunset fadeth in the west,	After the sun sets in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,	Which is soon extinguished by black night,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.	The image of death that envelops all in rest.
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire	I am like a glowing ember
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,	Lying on the dying flame of my youth,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,	As on the death bed where it must finally expire,
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.	Consumed by that which once fed it.
This thou perceivest, which makes thy love more strong,	This you sense, and it makes your love more determined
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.	Causing you to love that which you must give up before long.

In the following section... answer each multiple choice question, and then the questions that follow in complete sentences.



Quiz & Worksheet - Shakespeare's Sonnet 73

1. In the first quatrain of Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 73', what does the aging speaker compare himself to metaphorically?

- A wall
- A flower
- A tree
- The setting sun

2. In the second quatrain of 'Sonnet 73', what image does Shakespeare use to create a metaphor for growing old?

- A setting sun
- A tree
- Flowers
- The moon

3. In the third quatrain of 'Sonnet 73', Shakespeare uses what image to make a metaphor for a life that's nearing its end?

- A setting sun
 - A fire that's burning out
 - An arrangement of flowers that are fading
 - Eyes that are no longer able to see clearly
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4. What is old age compared to in each quatrain?

- First quatrain
- Second quatrain
- Third quatrain

5. What is the theme, or main idea, in the concluding couplet?

6. How do the comparisons/ideas mentioned in the quatrains relate to the concluding couplet?
