

Shakespeare sonnet analysis

Literature



**ASSIGN
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Nowak Enriched Language Arts 11 – Period 7 13 December 2011 Time: A
Giver and Ravager Shakespeare uses tranquility, somberness, and
hopefulness as elements of the mood in Sonnet 60. He begins the sonnet as
a metaphor, “ Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,”
comparing time to a tide. Waves could represent peacefulness and one at
ease because a tide is smooth and continuous. Later on the tone becomes
more dark and depressive, “ And time that gave doth now his gift confound. /
Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth / And delves the parallels in
beauty's brow” (9-10).

Shakespeare expresses the fact that time gives the gift of life, but also takes
it away with death while destroying nature’s perfection, “ Feeds on the
rarities of nature’s truth” (11). In the couplet, hope is seen because he says “
And yet to times in hope my verse shall stand, / Praising thy worth, despite
his cruel hand. ” He anticipates that his words will not be destroyed by time
and will continue to praise his beloved. The sonnet begins with tranquility,
but then changes to somberness, yet Shakespeare still ends with words of
hope.

Shakespeare is telling the audience a lesson of time. Minutes are
continuously coming, “ So do our minutes hasten to their end” (2). He seems
to be wrapped around the theme of time passing by and also trying to battle
time, “ Crooked elipses ‘ gainst his glory fight” (7). Time can give yet also
take, it is inevitable. It is the reason for birth, mortality, and change, but only
words can withstand time. Imagery is a key piece to this insightful sonnet.
The first line is an illustration to show time as the ocean “ Like as waves
make towards the pebbled shore. Using the sun to represent a human’s life,
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“ Nativity, once in the main of light, / Crawls to maturity, wherewith being crown'd, / Crooked eclipses 'gainst his glory fight. ” Nativity is the birth, then one maturing into adulthood, and finally trying to fight or cheat death. He personifies time as it is passing in the couplet's last words, “ despite his cruel hand” (14). Time is the owner of the hand and the “ cruel hand” is the elements of time. Mental images of Sonnet 60 are time passing, the cycle of life, and the personification of time.

Shakespeare's hope that his “ verse shall stand,” (13) is now a fact. His message is being studied and analyzed in this assignment. This proves that even though his life has ended, his words of wisdom have defied time. Time does pass while giving and annexing life. It is ceaseless and unchanging. Everyone experiences time every day and because it is inescapable, Shakespeare expresses and characterizes time but its timelessness is why it is relevant to today. Works Cited Shakespeare, William. “ Sonnet 60. ” Shakespeare's Sonnets. Oxquarry Books Ltd. Web. 8 Dec. 2011. ; www.shakespeare-sonnets. com;