

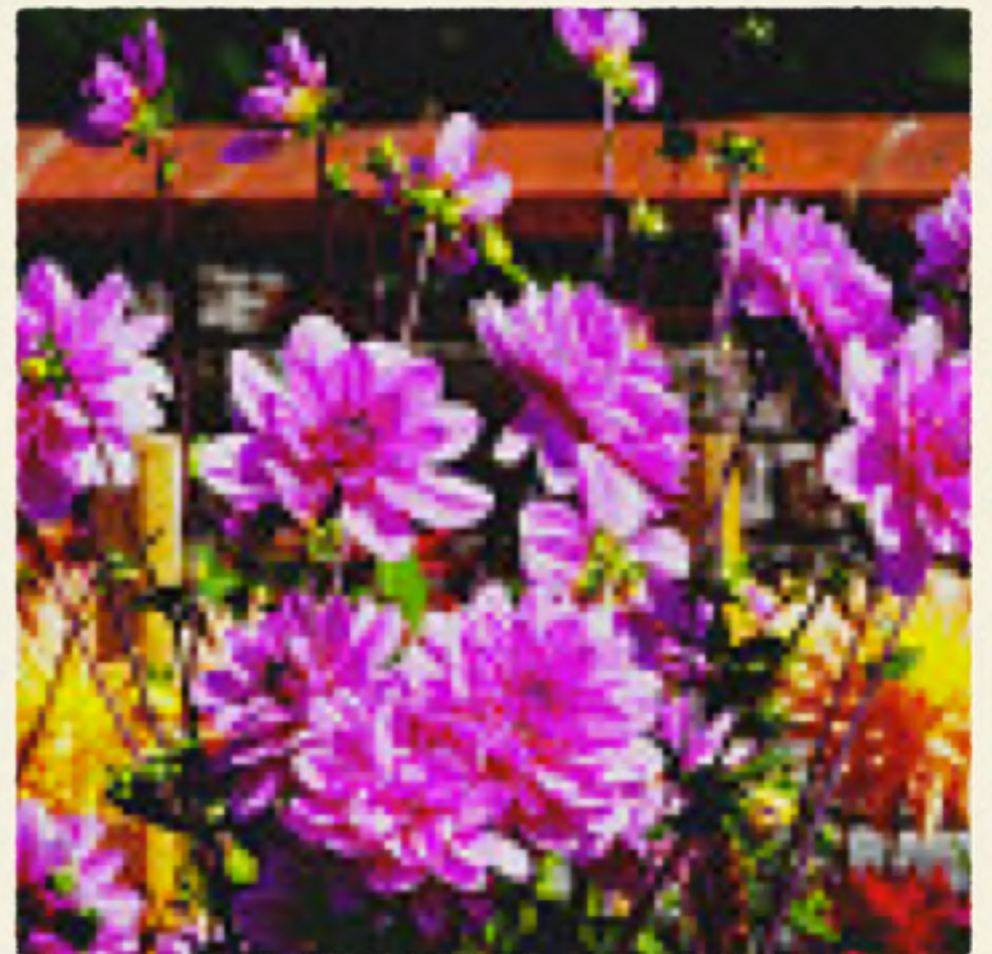
Shall I Compare Thee?

by William Shakespeare

www.aoifesnotes.com

What Women Want...

- * What do you think women would like to be compared to in poetry?
- * Why do you think they would enjoy those comparisons?



Opening

- * What is the effect of opening the poem with a question?
- * Who is the poet addressing in the question?
- * What is the effect of this?
- * Do you think it is a good opening?



Problems...

- * The poet lists FIVE reasons why a summer's day is not perfect. Can you list each one?
- * What do you think of the fact that the poet thinks a summer's day is not nearly good enough to be compared to his loved one?



BUT!

This is an important word that often signals a change in tone.



Explanation

- * Why does the poet say his loved one's beauty will last, unlike the beauty of a summer's day?
- * It's a big claim, saying 'Nor shall Death brag thou wanderest in his shade'. Do you think the poet is justified in saying this?



Rhyming Couplet

- * Is this a good way to end the poem?
- * Does it make the final lines easier to remember?
- * What words are repeated in the couplet? What is the effect of this?



Themes

- * What does this poem tell us about love?
- * What does the poem tell us about the passing of time?
- * What does the poem tell us about physical beauty?