**Critical Appreciation of Sonnet 65 | Sonnet 65 by William Shakespeare**

**Introduction to Sonnet 65**

"Sonnet 65" was written by the English Renaissance poet and playwright William Shakespeare and first published in 1609. The poem's speaker mourns the fact that everything is subject to the passage of time and wonders how something as delicate as beauty can possibly survive when even the strongest things on earth eventually crumble and decay. Yet there is one thing, the speaker ultimately argues, that can withstand time's relentless siege: poetry itself—and, importantly, the love expressed within it. "Sonnet 65" belongs to Shakespeare's “Fair Youth” [**sonnets**](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/sonnet), a sequence of poems addressed to a handsome young man.

Sonnet 65 is a continuation of the thoughts professed in SONNET 60 and SONNET 64 . Thus, the poet reflects upon life and finds that all earthly possessions are subject to decay and destruction.

Cruel hands of time spare nothing, not even the strongest and the most powerful of terrestrial objects. This realisation of times all ravaging power has found its expression most forcefully in the poem.

However, the concluding couplet, as usual brings about a termination to the poet's thoughts and expresses his firm confidence in his own poetic ability which he feels can withstand the cruel and relentless on slaught of time.

William Shakespeare counts among the finest sonneteers of the Elizabethan Age. He stands almost unrivalled with a rare combination of depth, variety, simplicity and richness of thoughts in his creations.

Shakespeare's sonnets are the lyrical expression of friendship, his experience and devotion to love Our present beautiful sonnet, SONNET 65, forms a link in the long chain of sonnets composed on the theme of the invincibility of time, an issue quite common in Shakespearan sonnets.

**Summary of Sonnet 65**

The poet begans his reflection in a mood of awe and sadness by thinking of how even things made of brass, stone and earth and also the boundless sea have to admit defeat confronted with the all powerful time. Sad mortality destroys all such powerful objects and under such circumstances it is natural that beauty should fair very miserly. As the poet beautifully observers,

     "How with this rage beauty hold a plea

Whose action is no stronger than a flower".

The poet knows that there is nothing in this world that can check this wanton destruction of time. He is in such a mood of despair and fear that the poet suddenly becomes aware of his own poetic talent which can perhaps fight successfully against times destruction of beauty. He hopes that the beauty of his mistress will never get faded and lost when that will be kept anested in the poet's verses.

Poetic Techniques

Shakespeare makes use of several poetic techniques in *‘Sonnet 65’.*These include but are not limited to [alliteration](https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/alliteration/), [metaphor](https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/metaphor/), and [personification](https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/personification/). The first of these, alliteration,  occurs when words are used in succession, or at least appear close together, and begin with the same sound. For example, “power” and “plea” in lines two and three as well as breath” and “batt’ring”. (The latter is also an example of [syncope](https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/syncope/).)

A metaphor is a [comparison](https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/juxtaposition/) between two unlike things that does not use “like” or “as” is also present in the text. When using this technique a poet is saying that one thing is another thing, they aren’t just similar. There is a good example in line five where the speaker refers to the youth’s beauty as “summer’s honey breath”. This relates back to several other [similes](https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/simile/) and metaphors in other sonnets where the youth is represented by warmth and the sun.

**Structure of Sonnet 65**

The structure of this sonnet contains three quatrains of four lines each and a final rhyming couplet. The rhyming pattern is *abab cdcd efef gg.*  The words and phrases also nicely blend with the ideas, expressions of the poem providing a balanced form of the poem.