

# Analysis of William Shakespeare and Sonnet 116

## 40 Points About William Shakespeare

1. Born on April 23, 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
2. Baptized on April 26, 1564.
3. Died on April 23, 1616, at the age of 52.
4. His father, John Shakespeare, was a glove-maker and local official.
5. His mother, Mary Arden, came from a wealthy family.
6. Likely attended the King's New School in Stratford, where he studied Latin, rhetoric, and classical literature.
7. Married Anne Hathaway in 1582 at age 18; she was eight years older.
8. Had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith.
9. His only son, Hamnet, died at age 11 in 1596.
10. Moved to London in the late 1580s or early 1590s to pursue a theater career.
11. Wrote 39 plays, 154 sonnets, and two long narrative poems.
12. His plays are divided into tragedies, comedies, and histories.
13. His first known play is likely 'Titus Andronicus' (1590s).
14. His early plays include 'Henry VI' (Parts 1-3), 'Titus Andronicus,' and 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona.'
15. His great tragedies include 'Hamlet,' 'Macbeth,' 'Othello,' and 'King Lear.'
16. Famous comedies include 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' 'Twelfth Night,' 'Much Ado About Nothing,' and 'As You Like It.'
17. His history plays include 'Richard III,' 'Henry IV,' and 'Henry V.'
18. The Sonnets (published in 1609) explore themes of love, time, beauty, and mortality.
19. His last play, 'The Tempest' (1611), is often considered his farewell to the stage.
20. Worked closely with actors Richard Burbage and Will Kempe.
21. Part-owner of The Globe Theatre, built in 1599.
22. Also performed at Blackfriars Theatre, an indoor playhouse.
23. The First Folio (1623) was compiled by his friends John Heminges and Henry Condell and preserved 36 of his plays.
24. Credited with adding over 1,700 words to the English language.
25. Introduced famous phrases like 'all the world's a stage,' 'to be or not to be,' and 'fair play.'

26. His plays were performed for Queen Elizabeth I and later King James I.
27. 'Macbeth' was likely written to please King James I, who was interested in witchcraft.
28. His works influenced writers like John Milton, Charles Dickens, and James Joyce.
29. His plays are performed more than those of any other playwright worldwide.
30. His poetry, especially the sonnets, was admired by Romantic poets like Keats and Shelley.
31. Buried in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon.
32. His epitaph warns against moving his bones: 'Blest be the man that spares these stones, / And cursed be he that moves my bones.'
33. His birthplace and grave are major tourist attractions.
34. Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London is a reconstruction of the original.
35. His works have been adapted into films, operas, ballets, and novels.
36. Some believe Francis Bacon or Christopher Marlowe wrote his plays (Shakespeare authorship question).
37. His influence extends to psychology, philosophy, and politics.
38. The Shakespearean sonnet form (14 lines, ABABCDCEFEFEGG) is still widely used.
39. His plays have been translated into over 100 languages.
40. UNESCO declared April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day in honor of his death anniversary.

## **Sonnet 116**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come:  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

## **Literary Devices in Sonnet 116**

1. Metaphor - Love as a lighthouse and guiding star.
2. Personification - Love and Time as human-like forces.
3. Alliteration - 'Love's not Time's fool.'
4. Anaphora - Repetition of words for emphasis.
5. Enjambment - Sentences flowing beyond line breaks.
6. Hyperbole - Love lasting to 'the edge of doom.'
7. Paradox - 'Love's not Time's fool.'
8. Symbolism - The North Star represents constancy.
9. Rhyming Couplet - Bold final statement on love's truth.
10. Shakespearean Sonnet Structure - ABAB CDCDEFEFGG rhyme scheme.