

Name _____

Sonnet 16

By William Shakespeare

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.

DIRECTIONS: In the box below, write an analysis of the poem. What does it say about love?

ANSWERS

The poem praises love in its most ideal form. He claims that to some degree love can be measured, but we cannot fully understand it. It's actual worth remains a mystery, and its perfect nature is unshakeable throughout time. The poet declares that if he is wrong about the nature of love, then he must disavow everything he has ever written about love, trust and faith.