

English Literature Test

Shakespeare the Poet-Read and analyse these poems

XII - WHEN I DO COUNT THE CLOCK THAT TELLS THE TIME

translation help

When I do count the clock that tells the time,
And see the brave day sunk in hideous night;

When I behold the violet past prime,
And sable curls, all silvered o'er with white;

When lofty trees I see barren of leaves,

Which erst from heat did canopy the herd,

And summer's green all girded up in sheaves,

Borne on the bier with white and bristly beard,

Then of thy beauty do I question make,

That thou among the wastes of time must go,

Since sweets and beauties do themselves forsake

And die as fast as they see others grow;

And nothing 'gainst Time's scythe can make defence

Save breed, to brave him when he takes thee hence.

erst formerly.

breed prole

sable curls= riccioli neri

lofty trees= alberi sublimi

transl. che protegge vano il gregge dalla calura

transl. il verde dell'estate stretto in covoni

transl. portato sul carro.....

forsake= qui si smarriscono

hence= da qua

PART ONE- ANALYSIS OF SONNET XII

1. Write down the sonnet's rhyme scheme _____

2. How many stanzas is the sonnet divided into? _____

3. Summarize the main subjects in these stanzas:

1st quatrain _____

2nd quatrain _____

3rd quatrain _____

final couplet _____

In lines 1-8 a number of changes in nature happen because of the passing of time. Complete the table:

NATURAL ELEMENTS	EFFECTS OF TIME
Brave day	Sunk in hideous night