I'm not robot!

SONNET 116 PARAPHRASE Let me not to the marriage of true minds In the marriage of true minds, Admit impediments. Love is not love, there are no obstacles. Love is not love Which alters when it alteration finds, even when one changes Or bends with the remover to remove. or is absent. O no, it is an ever fixed mark, No, it is a fixed point, That looks on tempests and is never shaken. and impervious to storms. It is the every wandering bark, It is the Pole Star to every ship, Whose worth is unknown, but its degree (location) is known. Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks Love is not Time's fool, even if beauty Within his bending sickle's compass come. is cut down by the ravages of Time. Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks Love does not change with the swiftness of Time, But bears it out even to the edge of doom. but Love lasts till Judgment Day. If this be error and upon me proved, If I am proven wrong in this, I never writ, nor no man ever loved I never wrote and no man ever loved. Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments. Sonnet 116 is one of Shakespeare's most well-loved sonnets. This iconic Shakespeare sonnet sits alongside other classics such as Sonnet 18 (Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?) and 130 (My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun). Though the opening line of these sonnets may be familiar, we plan on diving a little deeper into the text to see if we can unpack what it is, and what it is not. The core notion is that love is "never shaken" and an "ever-fixed mark". This is a theme that has carried on through our poetic tradition and modern storytelling tradition: true love that never ends. Basically this is theme of every romantic film ever; in Twilight, they take this idea to the next level by literally becoming immortal to be together forever. This off-quoted sonnet is a staple of weddings for this very reason. This is a truly beautiful sonnet and definitely worth exploring further. I believe this is a testament to what love is really about. Though the word marriage is used, the sonnet has nothing to do with getting marriage. Instead it's about true, everlasting, and deep connection between two people. Poetic details This poem, like a lot of Shakespeare's poetic work, is written in Iambic Pentameter. This sonnet also follows the standard rhyming structure of most sonnets: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. For example in the first quatrain, you can see "minds" rhymes with "finds" and "love" with "remove". (Wair, WHAT - REMOVE???) We have to take into account the change in accent and pronunciation (more on Original Pronunciation), so in modern English, in most accents, this no longer rhymes. Do not force this rhyme, it is simply something we have to be aware of. The rhythm throughout is fairly consistent, but there are examples where Shakespeare plays with the standard Iambic Pentameter. Generally, when Shakespeare breaks up his rhythm we see a character who is more agitated. One example of where the normal rhythm is broken is in the first line where we have a trochaic substitution. Without going into the details here, we basically are hitting the first beat "let" rather than "me", as we normally would do in a standard lambic line. There are a few other examples of this throughout, but for Shakespeare, who loves to play with the standard de-dum de-dum, he is fairly regular within this sonnet. Shakespeare also uses polyptoton within this sonnet. If we look at the first quatrain we see alters/alteration and remover/remove. Polyptoton simply means the repetition of words derived from the same root word, but with altered endings such as "enjoy" and "enjoyable". For me, these are worth observing, but always from an actor's perspective not an intellectual observations. It's great to be reminded that Shakespeare was an absolute master. Nothing was done accidentally and every word, every syllable, was agonised over to give the piece balance and flow. Now let's take a look at the sonnet itself. Here is the full original Shakespeare Text) 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 Sonnet 116 is the companion piece of Sonnet 115, and reading them together always is helpful. Let's take a look: Sonnet 115 Those lines that I before have writ do lie, Even those that said I could not love you dearer: Yet then my judgment knew no reason why My most full flame should afterwards burn clearer. But reckoning Time, whose million'd accidents Creep in 'twixt vows, and change decrees of kings, Tan sacred beauty, blunt the sharp'st intents, Divert strong minds to the course of altering things; Alas! why, fearing of Time's tyranny, Might I not then say, 'Now I love you best,' When I was certain o'er incertainty, Crowning the present, doubting of the rest? Love is a babe, then might I not say so, To give full growth to that which still doth grow? 115 is all about growth and change. 116, by contrast, is all about constancy even until the "edge of doom". I think it's helpful to read this sonnet to get a sense of where the poet is coming from contextually. For me, the trickiest part of this sonnet to get a sense of where the poet is coming from contextually. For me, the trickiest part of this sonnet to get a sense of where the poet is coming from contextually. was the tricky term for me, but to put it simply, Shakespeare is denying that anything can come between (be an impediment) to true or faithful love. In Church of England wedding services, this line used to be used: "If either of you know any inward impediment" so this piece is redolent of formal marriage, but is perhaps a comment on "true" marriage or connection of two people deeply and spiritually, not just for the convenience of marriage as it often was at the time. Shakespeare is perhaps saying that if two people truly love each other there can be nothing that will stop them having that loving relationship (no impediments). Once we break past that first thought, the piece opens up and for me became much simpler. We basically bear witness Shakespeare talking through what the nature of "true" love is. There is a fairly consistent through-line of the nature of true love, but Shakespeare investigates this from different angles. We see in the first quatrain: What love is not – changeable. In the second quatrain: What love is: "ever-fixed". Then we see, in the third quatrain, what love is not, again; this time it is even stronger than before. At the end of the speech, as is common in Shakespeare, we have a volta (or, change in tone). The poet, or narrator, becomes quite strong on his personal opinions in the final couplet after having been more poetic and reflective throughout the preceding sections of the poem; it's almost like a guarantee at the end of the speech. So this is the structure of the piece, but let's take a look at some of the poem... Below I have attempted to put this sonnet into a more modern format... 116 Modern Translation of Sonnet 116 May I never stand in the way of two people who are truly in love. Love is not true love which changes whenever an issue comes up or ends when the beloved disappears. Shakespeare's sonnet 116 can be seen as the definitive response to the 'what is love' question. The language of the sonnet is as deep and profound as any philosopher's could be, expressed in the most beautiful language. Love is given an identity as an immortal force, which overcomes age, death, and time itself. Love, unlike the physical being, is not subject to decay. Shakespeare employs an amazing array of poetic devices throughout the sonnet to convey the eternal nature of love, and ends by staking everything on his observations by asserting that if he is wrong, then no-one ever wrote anything, and no-one ever loved. And in sonnet 116 - as with all of his sonnets - Shakespeare manages to squeeze all of these thoughts and words into just fourteen lines. Shakespeare's Complete 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. Sonnet 116 Explanation In Modern English I would not admit that anything could interfere with the union of two people who love each other. Love that alters with changing circumstances is not love, nor if it bends from its firm state when someone tries to destroy it. Oh no, it's an eternally fixed point that watches storms but is never itself shaken by them. It is the star by which every lost ship can be quided: one can calculate it's distance but not gauge its quality. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. Love doesn't depend on Time, although the rosy lips and cheeks of youth eventually come within the compass of Time's sickle. the days and weeks go by but endures until death. If I'm wrong about this then I've never written anything and no man has ever loved. Love, Shakespeare tells us, isn't something that wears itself out over weeks, months and years, but remains firm right throughout the lives of the lovers, and doesn't even end with their death but continues until the world ends. What's your take on sonnet 116? Let us know in the comments section below!

