

## Shakespeare's Sonnets: Paraphrase Exercise

Ms. Turner

**I. Write a paraphrase of the Shakespeare sonnet you have been assigned below.** You may consult outside sources for help. By "paraphrase" I mean *a translation of the poem into colloquial twenty-first-century English prose*. Avoid slang, but otherwise use ordinary English. If a poem is written in the first person, your paraphrase should use the first person, too. Try to translate the *entire* poem. If the poem inverts syntax (for example, by putting the direct object in front of the verb), then you should put the words in their standard order. Paraphrase closely enough that you retain the poet's primary metaphors or images, although you may need to make the structure of the metaphors (that is, what is being compared to what) more explicit than the original. Spell out what you believe the poem is implying and try to respect what you believe to be the poem's emphasis.

**II. <http://www.shakespeares-sonnets.com/index.htm>**

**III. <http://www.sonnets.org/>**

**IV. Answer the following questions on the same sheet that contains your paraphrase:**

- 1. What is the poem's dominant metaphor?**
- 2. Where is the poem's major turning point?**
- 3. What is the poem's most ambiguous word?**

**Sonnet Choices:**

**3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39**

**Students:**

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>13.</b> |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>14.</b> |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>15.</b> |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>16.</b> |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>17.</b> |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>18.</b> |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>19.</b> |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>20.</b> |
| <b>9.</b>  |            |
| <b>10.</b> |            |
| <b>11.</b> |            |
| <b>12.</b> |            |