Sonnet no 116

By William Shakespeare

Answers

1. True minds
2. marriage of true minds
3. Impediments
4. If it changes with the changing situations.
5. Love
6. b) slave
7. a) True love does not change with time
8. c) Wavering minds.
9. a) an Ever fixed mark.
10. b) destructive power of time
11. Love
12. Time
13. Truelove
14. Time
15. Love
16. a) True love is immortal
17. physical beauty /rosy lips and cheeks.
18. Till Doomsday.
The sonnet 116, written by William Shakespeare, presents the value and eternity of true love. It also describes the qualities that true love must have. Shakespeare says that no impediment can come in the way of the marriage of true minds. He says true love does not alter or bend with the changing situations. It is an ‘ever fixed mark like the polestar and the light house. The light house looks on tempests and is never shaken. It guides every wandering ship on the ocean. Similarly, true love guides the people with wavering minds. The height of the lighthouse and the star can be measured whereas the value of the star or the light house or true love cannot be measured. “Love is not Time’s fool”. Physical beauty is mortal because it can be destroyed by time over a period of time but true love is immortal because it does not undergo any change and it lasts till dooms day. In the couplet, the speaker asserts the eternity of true love. Shakespeare challenges that if someone proves it to be incorrect, it would mean that he has not written anything or no man has ever loved.

In this sonnet, Shakespeare uses images related to voyage. Tempest, bark, pole star are the images related to voyage. Time is personified. It is depicted as a man holding a sickle cutting down everything. Rosy lips and cheeks represent physical beauty.