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# *Shakespeare's Sonnets and Poems*

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SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT  
AND PAUL WERSTINE

# Sonnets And Poems

**William Shakespeare**



## **Sonnets And Poems:**

*The Complete Sonnets and Poems: The Oxford Shakespeare* William Shakespeare, 2002-02-14 Shakespeare's Sonnets are among the most complex and beautiful poems ever written. Their exploration of love, praise, homo and hetero sexual desire is enacted in the richest, densest writing in English. And the first printed work to which Shakespeare's name was attached was the erotic narrative poem *Venus and Adonis*, which developed a sumptuous vocabulary in which to explore love, praise of the beloved, sexual desire, and the power of rhetoric. That poem was so popular that most of Shakespeare's contemporaries thought of him as primarily a poet rather than a playwright. Yet despite the power of Shakespeare's poems and their foundational place within his oeuvre, modern readers have seldom been encouraged to engage with his non-dramatic works as a whole. This new edition explains how this state of affairs has arisen and why it needs to be changed. The volume contains the complete Sonnets and poems with a full commentary. An extensive and lively introduction explores Shakespeare's poetic development and shows how the poems relate to each other and to his dramatic works. The Sonnets are freshly interpreted not as cryptic fragments of autobiography but as works which ask their readers to think about relationships between lyric poems and the historical circumstances which may have given rise to them. The narrative poems *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece* are placed where they belong at the origin of Shakespeare's thinking about what it means to desire and to be desired. The edition responds to the most recent scholarly work on the interpretation and dating of Shakespeare's poems and Sonnets. It also explores what the poems may have meant to their earliest readers. For this reason, it also includes poems attributed to Shakespeare in the seventeenth century as well as those printed under his name in *The Passionate Pilgrim* in 1599.

**The Complete Sonnets and Poems** William Shakespeare, 2002 Shakespeare's Sonnets are among the most complex and beautiful poems ever written. Their exploration of love, praise, homo and hetero sexual desire is enacted in the richest, densest writing in English. And the first printed work to which Shakespeare's name was attached was the erotic narrative poem *Venus and Adonis*, which developed a sumptuous vocabulary in which to explore love, praise of the beloved, sexual desire, and the power of rhetoric. That poem was so popular that most of Shakespeare's contemporaries thought of him as primarily a poet rather than a playwright. Yet despite the power of Shakespeare's poems and their foundational place within his oeuvre, modern readers have seldom been encouraged to engage with his non-dramatic works as a whole. This new edition explains how this state of affairs has arisen and why it needs to be changed. The volume contains the complete Sonnets and poems with a full commentary. An extensive and lively introduction explores Shakespeare's poetic development and shows how the poems relate to each other and to his dramatic works. The Sonnets are freshly interpreted not as cryptic fragments of autobiography but as works which ask their readers to think about relationships between lyric poems and the historical circumstances which may have given rise to them. The narrative poems *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece* are placed where they belong at the origin of Shakespeare's thinking about what it means to desire and to be desired. The edition

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**Shakespeare's Poems and Sonnets** Harold Bloom, 2009 Provides insight into the poems sonnets of William Shakespeare along with a brief biography

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*The Sonnet* Charles Tomlinson, 1874 **SONNETS & POEMS** John 1878-1967 Masfield, 2016-08-29 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it This work

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