

## Main Points

- The poem, Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds is also known as sonnet 116.
- Sonnet 116 is a love poem written by William Shakespeare.
- It describes the qualities of true love.
- True love never changes nor bends in any condition.
- It is an ever fixed mark like a lighthouse which never shakes.
- The pole star used to guide the lost boat, similarly love is also like a pole star which guides the lovers.
- Love is not affected by the time, though beauty can be destroyed by the time or crops can be destroyed by the sickle.
- And the true love remains till the edge of the doom.
- And Shakespeare claims that if whatever he said for love is not true then he would never write again and no one would love.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. 'Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds' is a love poem written by -  
a. William Shakespeare  
b. William Wordsworth  
c. Sujatta Bhatt  
d. Kamala Das
2. A Sonnet is a poem of \_\_\_\_\_ lines.  
a. 10  
b. 12  
c. 14  
d. 15
3. The word 'impediments' means -  
a. Lies  
b. Obstacles  
c. Fears  
d. Mistakes
4. According to the poet, a marriage without love admits what?  
a. Impediments  
b. Joy  
c. Trouble  
d. Doubts
5. According to Shakespeare, which of the following is not true based on the poem-  
a. Love is not love which does not alter  
b. Love is not love which bends  
c. Love is an ever-fixed mark  
d. Love is never shaken
6. What is not time's fool in the poem?  
a. Beauty  
b. Crop  
c. Love  
d. Friendship
7. The image of an 'ever-fixed mark' is that of a -  
a. Dark spot  
b. Memory  
c. Stain  
d. Light house
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is not love if it alters when it finds alteration.  
a. Money  
b. Selfishness  
c. Love  
d. Relationship
9. What is love compared to in the poem 'Let Me Not To the Marriage of True Minds'?  
a. Star  
b. Lighthouse  
c. Fortune  
d. Both a and b
10. In the lines "Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, But bears it out even to the edge of doom," Shakespeare believe that true love is-  
a. Timeless  
b. Strong  
c. Constant  
d. Measurable
11. What is the other name of the poem, 'Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds'?  
a. Sonnet 116  
b. Sonnet 113  
c. sonnet 16  
d. Sonnet 114
12. What type of poem is, 'Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds'?  
a. Ode  
b. Ballad  
c. Sonnet  
d. None of these
13. Love does not alter with brief hours and \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Years  
b. Weeks  
c. Minutes  
d. Days
14. Love's not Time's \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Enemy  
b. Fool  
c. Friend  
d. Foe

**15. What is the theme of the poem 'Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds'?**

- a. Friendship                      b. Nature
- c. True love                        d. Knighthood

**ANSWER KEY**

1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-a, 6-c, 7-d, 8-c, 9-d, 10-c, 11-a, 12-c, 13-b, 14-b, 15-c.

**VERY SHORT QUESTIONS**

**1. Who has written the poem, Let Me Not to Marriage of True Minds?**

Ans. William Shakespeare has written the poem.

**2. What is the other name of the poem, Let Me Not to Marriage of True Minds?**

Ans. 'Let Me Not To The Marriage of True Minds' poem is also known as Sonnet 116.

**3. What is a sonnet?**

Ans. A Sonnet is a poem of fourteen lines.

**4. What never alters?**

Ans. True love never changes in any condition and circumstances.

**5. In Sonnet 116, what does the poet compare love to?**

Ans. The poet compares love to ever-fixed mark(lighthouse) and pole star.

**6. What is not 'time's fool'?**

Ans. True love is not time's fool.

**7. What fades away beauty?**

Ans. With the change of time the beauty of human being and the body destroys.

**8. Whom does the pole star guide?**

Ans. Pole star guides the lost boats or ships in the sea.

**9. What is the central idea of the poem?**

Ans. The poem is about love and the poet has focussed on the qualities of true love.

**10. What does the poet claim at the end of the poem?**

Ans. Shakespeare claims that if what he has said about love is untrue he would never write poem again and no one would be in love henceforth.

**SHORT QUESTIONS**

**1. What does the poet say about love in the first stanza?**

Ans. The poet says that no obstacle can come in between the lovers. Further he says that love is not true if it changes with condition or situation nor can love be finished by any external forces.

**2. Give the meaning of the phrase, 'ever-fixed mark'.**

Ans. 'Ever-fixed mark' means permanent mark. And here in the poem the poet says that love is an ever fixed mark which never shakes like the lighthouse in the sea which never shakes even during the strong winds.

**3. What is the role of a pole star?**

Ans. Pole star is fixed in the sky in north direction which helps the lost ships in finding the way to their destination

**4. How is love like a pole star?**

Ans. If love is true its like a pole star as both are fixed which do not change in any condition. Pole star guides the lost ships similarly true love guides the lovers.

**5. What role does time play in love?**

Ans. The poet emphasised that true love is everlasting. It does not change with change in time. The body of the lovers may change with the progress of time but true love never dies even to the edge of doom.

**LONG QUESTIONS**

**1. What does the poet Shakespeare describe about true love?**

Ans. In the poem Shakespeare describes about true love. He says nothing can bring obstacles in the union of love. True love is constant and unchanging and does not change under any circumstances or condition. It is permanent and never fades even the beauty of the love fades away.

**2. 'Constancy' is the theme of the poem. Indicate the words, phrases and images that suggest the theme.**

Ans. The central theme of the poem is about true love and true love is constant that does not alter even during adverse situation. The constancy of love has been carried out throughout the poem. The words, phrases and images that express the constant nature of true love are-

Love is not love which alters  
Ever-fixed mark  
Never shaken  
Love's not time's fool  
Love alters not

**3. What qualities of love make it like a lighthouse and a pole star?**

Ans. Shakespeare says that love is a fixed mark like a lighthouse which never shakes even in the strong winds. Likewise love is also permanent and unchanging even in adverse situations. No obstacle can shake true love.

A pole star is also fixed in the night sky which lets not the ships to be lost in the dark nights and find the right direction in the seas. Same way love is also fixed which lets not the lovers to change and acts as a guidance.