

# Shaking Up Shakespeare

YOUR FAVORITE POETRY, UNZIPPED, FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING. THIS MONTH, IT'S **SHAKESPEARE'S** TURN.

## To unzip poetry:

>>TO REVEAL THE TRUTH OF A POEM

>>TO ANALYZE A POEM'S MEANING

>>TO CLARIFY THE FORM BEHIND THE WORDS

## Shakespeare's Sonnet 99

The forward violet thus did I chide:  
Sweet thief, whence didst thou steal thy sweet that smells,  
If not from my love's breath? The purple pride  
Which on thy soft cheek for complexion dwells  
In my love's veins thou hast too grossly dy'd.  
The lily I condemned for thy hand,  
And buds of marjoram had stol'n thy hair;  
The roses fearfully on thorns did stand,  
One blushing shame, another white despair;  
A third, nor red nor white, had stol'n of both,  
And to his robbery had annex'd thy breath;  
But, for his theft, in pride of all his growth  
A vengeful canker eat him up to death.  
More flowers I noted, yet I none could see,  
But sweet, or colour it had stol'n from thee.



CHLOE DALBY UNZIPS  
"SHAKESPEARE'S SONNET 99"

HIGH SCHOOL:  
THE CROWDEN SCHOOL  
BERKELEY, CA  
AGE: 13

**My favorite poem** is Shakespeare's sonnet number 99 because the poet is so much in love that he accuses the flowers of stealing beauty from his beloved. He calls the flowers "sweet thieves" and lists what they have taken from her in the poem. First, the sweet thief is a violet, and as the theme continues, Shakespeare condemns a lily for resembling his love's hand, and a marjoram bud for stealing her hair. The last and most unfortunate flower is the rose that has stolen the beloved's blushing red and white despair, so it must be pink.

## Unzipped: Your Turn

>>WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "CHIDE"? HOW ABOUT TO "ANNEX"?

>>HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE FIGURE OF SPEECH "STANDING ON THORNS"?

>>WHAT DOES THE RHYME SCHEME ADD TO THE POEM?

## ABOUT WILLIAM SHAKE- SPEARE

### BORN

April 23, 1564,  
Stratford-upon-  
Avon, England

### DIED

April 23, 1616,  
Stratford-on-Avon,  
England

### EDUCATION

Shakespeare's level of education is unknown, but his plays show that he read Ovid's myths and Roman history

### MOST FAMOUS MOMENT

Performing his plays for Queen Elizabeth I and King James I

### >>SEND US

the title and author of your favorite poem, and tell us why you love it. What is it about the poem that speaks to you? What's your favorite image? How does it relate to you and your life?

Send your response to [Literarycavalcade@scholastic.com](mailto:Literarycavalcade@scholastic.com).