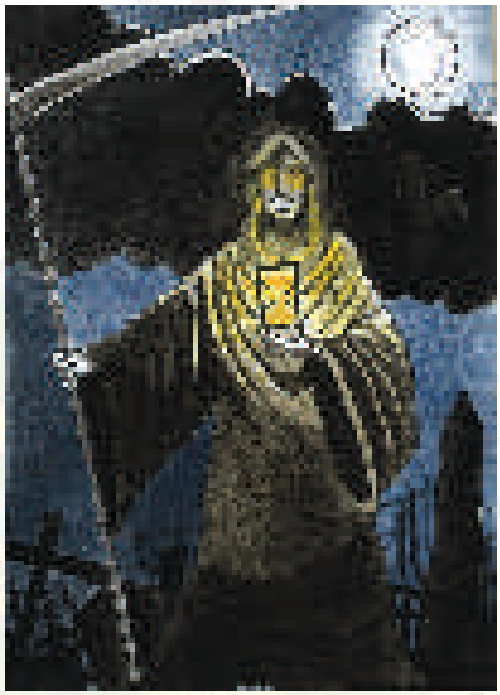
Poetry

UNIT 9

P.3 Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments (Sonnet 55)

by William Shakespeare

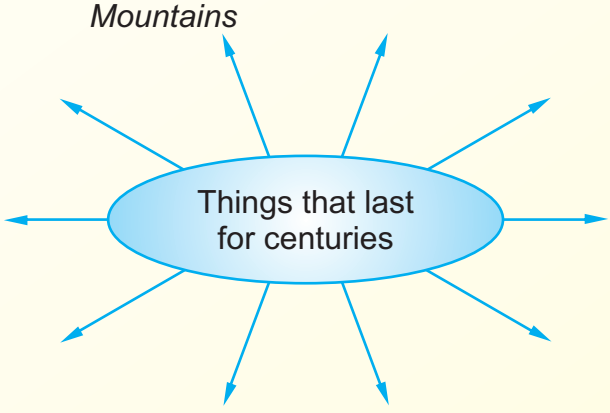
1. Look at the following picture carefully.



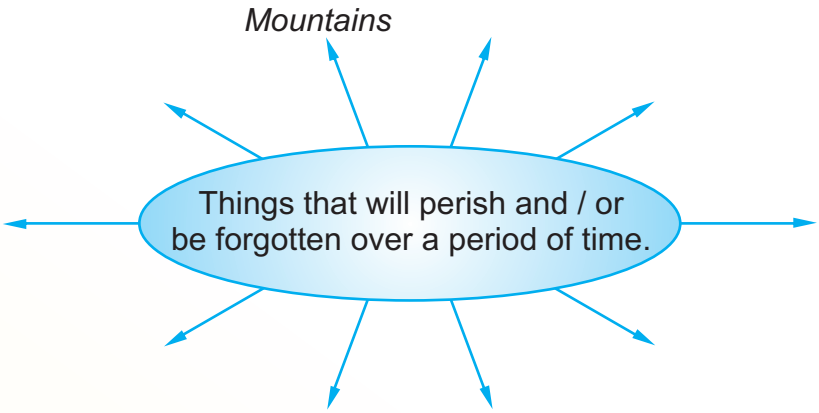
a) What has Time been portrayed as? Why?

b) What are the other symbols associated with Time?

2. a) What are the things that last for centuries? List a few things around you that will survive four to five hundred years into the future.



b) Think of things that will perish and/or be forgotten with the passage of time.



3. The word "sonnet" is derived from the Italian word sonetto, meaning "a little sound" or "a little song." A Sonnet is a poem of 14 lines with a structured rhyme scheme in which a thought about a subject is developed thoroughly.

You will read two sonnets on the powerful effects of Time.

4. Listen to a recording of the sonnet Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' by William Shakespeare played by your teacher. You could also listen to it on youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0qCa1jBhtM&feature=related

5. Now read the sonnet.

Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments (Sonnet 55)

By William Shakespeare

Not marble, nor the **gilded**[1] monuments
Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than **unswept stone**[2], **besmear'd**[3] with **sluttish**[4] time.

When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
And **broils**[5] root out the work of masonry,
Nor **Mars**[6] his sword nor war's **quick**[7] fire shall burn
The **living record**[8] of your memory.

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1 **gilded:** covered with gold; gold-plated
2 **unswept stone:** a stone monument left uncared for
3 **besmear'd :** tarnished
4 **sluttish:** of unclean habits and behaviour
5 **broils:** tumult, fighting, disturbances, esp. in war
6 **Mars:** the god of war
7 **quick:** lively, fast moving, searching out
8 **living record :** this written memory of your life which continues after you are dead

'Gainst[9] death and all **oblivious enmity**[10]

10 Shall you **pace forth**[11]; your praise shall still find room,

Even in the eyes of all **posterity**[12]

That wear this world out to the ending **doom**[13].

So, till the **judgment**[14] that yourself arise,

You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes.

About the Poet

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. He is considered by many to be the greatest dramatist of all time. He wrote 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and about three dozen plays. Shakespeare used poetic and dramatic means to create unified aesthetic effects. In verse he perfected the dramatic blank verse.

6. On the basis of your understanding of Shakespeare's sonnet, answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.

(a) The rich and powerful got ornate monuments made in order to _____

(i) show off their wealth

(ii) display their power

(iii) show their artistic talent

(iv) be remembered till posterity

(b) The poet addresses his sonnet to _____

(i) time

(ii) war

(iii) the person he loves

(iv) powerful rulers

(c) In the line *'The living record of your memory'*, living record refers to _____

(i) the sonnet the poet has written for his friend

(ii) an existing statue of his friend

(iii) his friend who lives in the poet's memory

(iv) the autobiography of the poet's friend

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9 **Gainst:** against
10 **oblivious enmity:** enmity which is forgetful of everything and so seeks to destroy everything
11 **pace forth:** stride forwards
12 **posterity:** future generations
13 **doom:** doomsday; the day on which the Last Judgment will occur
14 **judgement :** the day of the last judgement

(d) The poet's tone in the poem is _____

(i) despairing

(ii) optimistic

(iii) loving

(iv) admiring

(e) The poem is set in _____

(i) the place where the poet meets his friend

(ii) a battlefield where Mars is fighting a battle

(iii) a city ravaged by war

(iv) the poet's study where he is writing

7. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Why do you think the rich and powerful people get monuments and statues erected in their memory?

(b) Describe how the monuments and statues brave the ravages of time.

(c) Why does the poet refer to Time as being sluttish ?

(d) The poet says that neither forces of nature nor wars can destroy his poetry. In fact, even godly powers of Mars will not have a devastating effect on his rhyme. What quality of the poet is revealed through these lines?

8. Shakespeare's sonnet has been divided into three quatrains of 4 lines each followed by a rhyming couplet. Each quatrain is a unit of meaning. Read the poem carefully and complete the following table on the structure of the poem.

	Rhyme scheme	Theme
Quatrain 1		Comparison between poetry and monuments.
Quatrain 2		Ravages of time on monuments contrasted with _____
Quatrain 3		The recorded memory of _____ _____posterity
Couplet		Poetry immortalises friend

9. a) The poet uses alliteration to heighten the musical quality of the sonnet. Working in pairs, underline the examples of alliteration in the poem.

b) Identify Shakespeare's use of personification in the poem.