

**Sonnets 29, 73, 116 and 130**  
**by William Shakespeare**

XXIX

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes  
I all alone beweepe my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,  
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featur'd like him, like him with friends possess'd,  
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;  
Yet in these thoughts my self almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee,-- and then my state,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate,;  
For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

LXXIII

That time of year thou mayst in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west;  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire,  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed, whereon it must expire,  
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.  
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,  
To love that well, which thou must leave ere long.

CXVI

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

CXXX

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red, than her lips red:  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound:  
I grant I never saw a goddess go,--  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:  
And yet by heaven, I think my love as rare,  
As any she belied with false compare.

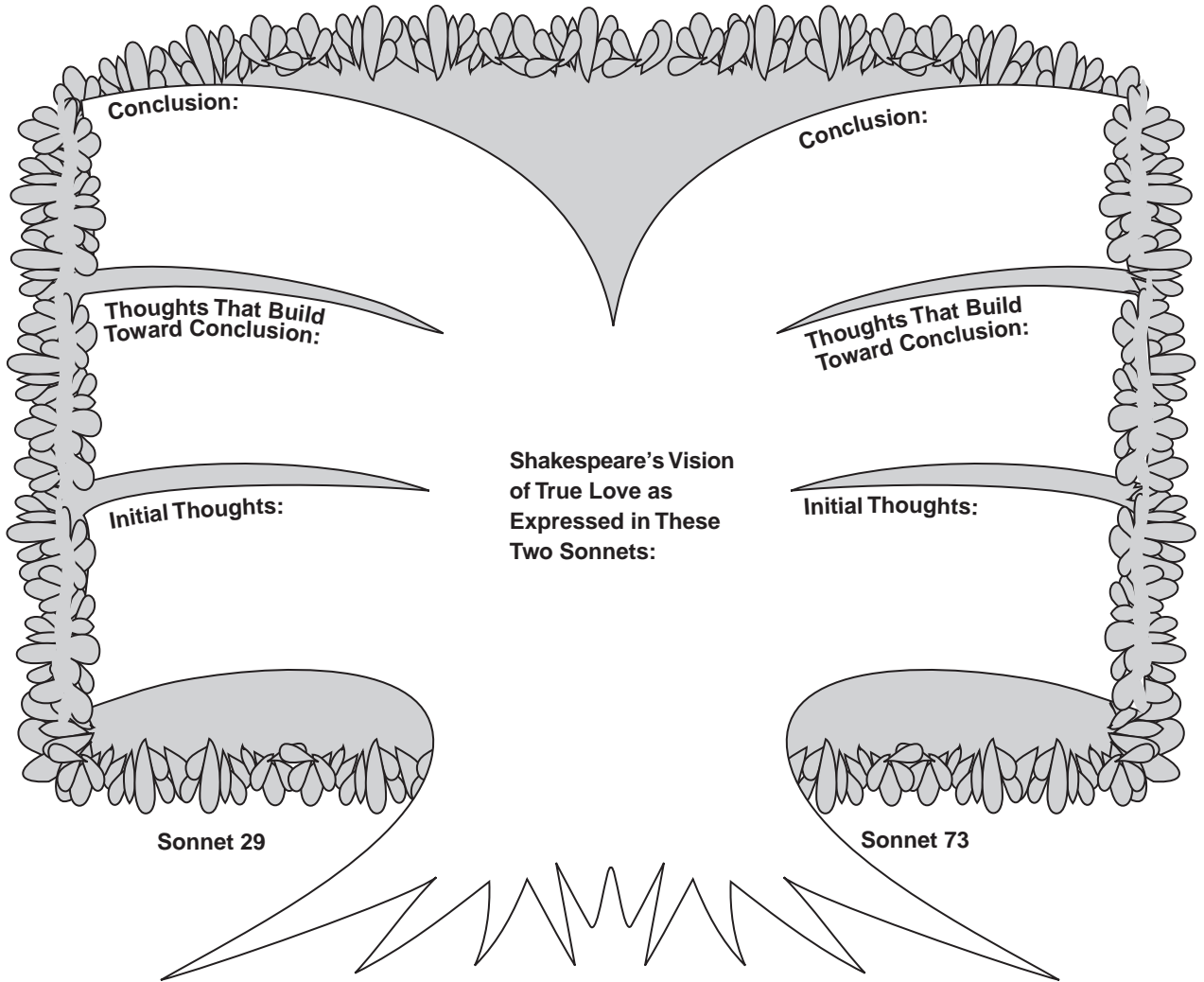
**GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING**

**Sonnets 29 and 73**  
**William Shakespeare**

Pupil's Edition pages 225–226

**The Heart of the Matter**

In both Sonnets 29 and 73, the speaker's thoughts about his situation change by the end of the poem. In the tree branches below, map out each sonnet's progression, first by describing the speaker's initial thoughts, then by summarizing his thoughts that build toward the conclusion of the poem, and, finally, by explaining the conclusion the speaker comes to. In the tree trunk, describe Shakespeare's idea of true love and state whether you agree with it or not.



How does Shakespeare succeed in transforming an apparently negative situation into a positive realization about his love?

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**GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING**

**Sonnets 116 and 130**

**William Shakespeare**

**Pupil's Edition pages 228–229**

**Love Is Not Always Like a Rose**

In Sonnets 116 and 130, Shakespeare frequently defines love according to what it is *not*. The images in these poems could be used to form a checklist for people who want to know whether their relationships are based on true love. In the upper sections of the chart below, write images from each poem that express Shakespeare's view of what love *is not*. In the lower sections, describe your impression of what Shakespeare thinks love *is*.



Love is not...



Love is...



1. Do you think that Shakespeare's criteria for true love are valid? Explain your answer.

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2. Do you think people today praise their beloveds in exaggerated, false ways? Explain your answer.

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