

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Sonnet 77

Thy glass¹ will show thee how thy beauties wear²,
Thy dial³ how thy precious minutes waste;
The vacant leaves⁴ thy mind's imprint⁵ will bear,
And of this book, this learning⁶ mayst thou taste.

- 5 The wrinkles which thy glass will truly show
Of mouthed⁷ graves will give thee memory;
Thou by thy dial's shady stealth⁸ mayst know
Time's thievish progress to eternity.
Look what thy memory cannot contain,
10 Commit to⁹ these waste blanks¹⁰, and thou shalt find
Those children nursed, deliver'd¹¹ from thy brain,
To take a new acquaintance of thy mind.
These offices¹², so oft as thou wilt look,
Shall profit thee and much enrich thy book.
(107 words)

¹glass mirror – ²wear fade – ³dial sundial – ⁴vacant leaves blank pages – ⁵imprint shape, stamp – ⁶this learning these lessons –
⁷mouthed gaping – ⁸shady stealth creeping shadow – ⁹Commit to write on – ¹⁰waste blanks blank pages – ¹¹deliver'd born –
¹²offices duties