

The Spring, *Summary*

It is a sonnet written by courtier and poet Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547). The poem describes the bountiful beauty of spring and summer, when the world is filled with green hills, blooming flowers, and singing birds. Yet even as the natural world seems happy and glorious, the heartbroken speaker feels rotten. The change in the seasons doesn't soften the speaker's pain; on the contrary, the only thing that blossoms is the speaker's sorrow.

The Spring, *theme*

1. **Rejuvenation**: Spring represents a rejuvenation of life after the dormant period of winter. Trees and plants start to bud, flowers bloom, and animals come out of hibernation.
2. **Blossoming** Flowers: Spring is known for its beautiful blossoms. Colorful flowers like tulips, daffodils, cherry blossoms. Flowers symbolize beauty, fragility, and the transient nature of life.
3. **Freshness and Growth**: With the arrival of Spring, the landscape becomes lush and green as new leaves sprout on trees and grass regains its vibrancy. It represents growth, expansion, and the promise of new opportunities.
4. **Animals and Birds**: Spring is a time when many animals become active. Birds return from migration, and their chirping fills the air, symbolizing joy and freedom. Animals like butterflies and bees are also more prevalent, symbolizing transformation and industriousness.

Figures of speech in Henry Howard's sonnet:

1. Metaphor:

"Love, that doth reign and live within my thought"

This line contains the metaphor comparing love to a ruler, suggesting the power and supremacy of love in the speaker's thoughts.

2. Personification:

"Though other rivers doth condemn their pride"

Here, the rivers are personified as displaying the characteristic of pride, which is a human quality.

3. Simile:

"Even as the fawn, whom speedy flight doth save"

The speaker compares themselves to a fawn, emphasizing their need for quick escape or avoidance, as inspired by love.

4. Imagery:

"By seeing pictures, whose skill doth
so increase"

Through vivid imagery, the speaker describes how the skillfully painted pictures intensify their feelings of love.