Demetrius’s speech, upon waking and seeing Helena (Act 3, scene 1, lines 140-147), has some similarity to Shakespeare’s Sonnet XVIII. Read Demetrius’s speech and the sonnet below and discuss its structure and meaning. Do you see any similarities between the two? In the sonnet, why do you think the speaker’s love will never get old or die?

Sonnet XVIII

Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer’s lease hath all too short a date.

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimmed;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance, or natures changing course, untrimmed:

But thy eternal summer shall not fade

Nor lose possession of that fair thou owe’st,

Nor shall Death brag thou wand’rest in his shade

When in eternal lines to time thou grow’st.

 So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,

 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.