

Summarize the poem "How Do I Love Thee?"

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Elizabeth Barrett Browning's (1806-61) "How Do I Love Thee?" (1850) is a heartfelt sonnet about the depth of true love. The speaker describes her intense feelings. This shows how love can be pure, selfless, and eternal. Her words celebrate love as a powerful connection that goes beyond life itself.

Love is Boundless: The speaker begins by measuring her love. She compares it to something infinite, reaching great depths and heights. Her soul expands to find "ideal grace." This shows that her love is spiritual and unending. This love is not limited by time or space but is as vast as her soul can imagine.

Love in Everyday Life: The speaker expresses her love in simple, daily acts. She loves her partner during quiet moments, whether in sunlight or candlelight. Her love is free and pure, like the way people seek justice or avoid selfish pride. She shows that love is a part of her normal life, present in even the smallest things.

Love is Eternal: The speaker compares her love to the faith she had as a child. She also recalls the passion she felt for people she admired but lost. Her love now replaces those feelings, making it stronger. She ends by saying her love will continue after death if God allows it. This shows her belief that love is eternal.

The poem beautifully captures love's depth and simplicity. Through pure and powerful words, Browning reminds us that love can last forever, even beyond life.