

## WINNING SGCNZ SHAKES QUOTES SONNETS

Shakespeare wrote so many quotable quotes! Those who do not 'brush' with Shakespeare, miss out on appreciating how many everyday sayings, phrases, words are either directly from the Bard's works, or parody them. No one could deny we are now "*in our Autumn of discontent*".

The third of Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's Sonnet competitions has produced two very close winners with the subject of choosing any two of Shakespeare's 'quotable quotes' or phrases and weaving them into a Sonnet.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Prize by Lesley Shepherd of Auckland**

#### ***Covid Sonnet 19***

Shall I compare thee to a beast of prey?  
Thou art more cunning and more terrible.  
Rough times do shake our weary world each day  
And we must fight to gain a life more bearable.  
Sometime too strong the monster greedily feeds  
And off its venom'd claws they grip so tight,  
And though hearts tremble as our world bleeds  
By every way we must combat this blight.  
But this black plague, this curse, it too will fade  
And lose dominion over places it grow'st.  
Nor shall death brag we wandr'st in his shade,  
When our firm minds heed the science we know'st.  
So long as we remain in space apart  
So long will we together all take heart.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – by John Smythe of Wellington**

#### ***Seclusion exclusions – a Lockdown Level 4 sonnet***

I have been studying how I may compare  
This lockdown where I live unto the world  
But you and all my friends are lock'd elsewhere  
And I am left in foetal self-love curl'd.  
Now I am alone. Is it not monstrous  
One small virus brings the world to this?  
The media's made us all so hyper conscious:  
'Tis wrong to hug and even more to kiss.  
No more may I buy with you, sell  
With you, talk with you, walk with you.  
No bubble holds us in its global shell  
I walk alone around the block. Woohoo.  
And yet in sky so blue, in air so clear  
Ne'er was birdsong such a joy to hear.

SGCNZ now has a Shakespeare related Limerick Competition 'on the go'. Details can be found on SGCNZ's website [sgcnz.org.nz/News](http://sgcnz.org.nz/News). Closing date is 22 May.

Joining the arts offers on-line, SGCNZ is also offering a series of twice weekly ZOOM Workshops until school resumes fully.

For further information, contact SGCNZ CEO, Dawn Sanders M: 027 283 6016 or E: [dawn@sgcnz.org.nz](mailto:dawn@sgcnz.org.nz)