

Clementhia Poole, Ed. D.
Whitehaven High School
AP English Lit and Comp
3rd Quarter Grade Improvement Assignment Optional Assessment
April 27-May 11, 2020

Read and analyze the poem, "His Coy Mistress", by Andrew Marvell. Address the questions that follow the poem as accurately as possible. This assignment will serve as an "optional assessment", which can add up to 5 points to your final 3rd Quarter grade (the one that you have now). If you address 3 correctly, you will receive 3 points, and so forth. Once you have completed the assessment on your own paper, please send the answers to the instructor via email.

This metaphysical love poem is considered one of Marvell's finest and is possibly the best recognized *carpe diem* poem in English. Although the date of its composition is not known, it may have been written in the early 1650s. At that time, Marvell was serving as a tutor to the daughter of the retired commander, Sir Thomas Fairfax.

"His Coy Mistress"
by Andrew Marvell

Had we but world enough and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime.
We would sit down, and think which way
To walk, and pass our long love's day.
Thou by the Indian Ganges' side
Should'st rubies find; I by the tide
Of Humber would complain. I would
Love you ten years before the flood,
And you should, if you please, refuse
Till the conversion of the Jews.
My vegetable love should grow
Vaster than empires and more slow;
An hundred years should go to praise
Thine eyes, and on thy forehead gaze;
Two hundred to adore each breast,
But thirty thousand to the rest;
An age at least to every part,
And the last age should show your heart.
For, lady, you deserve this state,
Nor would I love at lower rate.
But at my back I always hear
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all before us lie
Deserts of vast eternity.
Thy beauty shall no more be found;

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Nor, in thy marble vault, shall sound
My echoing song; then worms shall try
That long-preserved virginity,
And your quaint honour turn to dust,
And into ashes all my lust;
The grave's a fine and private place,
But none, I think, do there embrace.
Now therefore, while the youthful hue
Sits on thy skin like morning dew,
And while thy willing soul transpires
At every pore with instant fires,
Now let us sport us while we may,
And now, like amorous birds of prey,
Rather at once our time devour
Than languish in his slow-chapped power.
Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
And tear our pleasures with rough strife
Through the iron gates of life:
Thus, though we cannot make our sun
Stand still, yet we will make him run.

Questions:

1. The speaker's use of metaphors, allusions, and imagery...
 - A. helps the reader understand the purpose for the argument.
 - B. sets the tone and mood of the argument.
 - C. makes the poem sound good.
 - D. are used in all of Marvell's poems.
2. What is the speaker's argument in the poem?
 - A. The lady's shyness is tempting.
 - B. The lady's shyness is a crime.
 - C. The lady will die soon.
 - D. The lady needs to relax and live.

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3. What does the speaker admire about the woman?
 - A. Her shyness.
 - B. Her wit.
 - C. Her physical beauty.
 - D. Her love for the speaker.

4. The best draft of a “thesis statement” for an analytical essay about this poem is:
 - A. Life will pass you by if you do not seize the moment.
 - B. Time passes quickly, and the grave will take you for eternity.
 - C. Beauty will fade away.
 - D. Life is too short.

5. A good example of Marvell’s uses *sylllogism* in this poem is:
 - A. Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
 - B. The grave’s a fine and private place,
But none, I think, do there embrace.
 - C. And now, like amorous birds of prey,
Rather at once our time devour
 - D. All of the above