

Poetry Lesson

For 12th graders in HS English Class in an urban setting, mix of students L1's-
mostly English speaking.

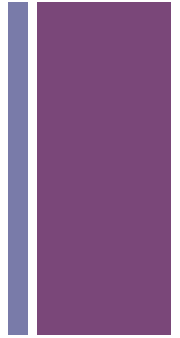
+ Objectives

■ Content Objectives :

- To understand the term “Metaphysical poetry” and be able to explain it/spot it in a poem
- Learning important reading skills for poetry

■ Language Objectives :

- To be able to read early 17th century English
- Better understanding of Metaphors and how they are used in speech

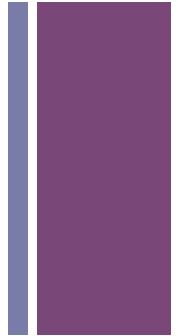


+ “Metaphysical poetry”

- a style of verse which flourished in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

Key Components

- verse forms
- complex figures of speech that are elaborate and surprising metaphors
- themes that are eccentric and have unexpected chains of reasoning.



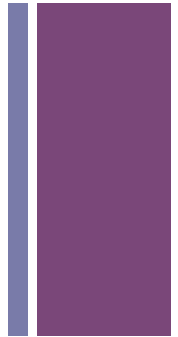
+ Modern Examples:

U2- “And a woman needs a man, like a fish needs a bicycle.”

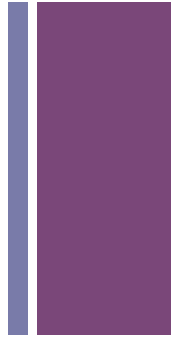
V.V. Brown- “Baby there’s a shark in the water, there’s something underneath bed, oh please believe when I say, baby there's a shark in the water, I caught them barking at the moon, better get here soon!!”

Cee Lo Green-

“I guess he's an Xbox and I'm more Atari,
But the way you play your game ain't fair.”



+ Worksheet



1MARK but this flea, and mark in this,
2How little that which thou deniest me is;
3It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee,
4And in this flea our two bloods mingled be
5Thou know'st that this cannot be said
6A sin, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead;
7Yet this enjoys before it woo,
8And pamper'd swells with one blood made of two;
9And this, alas ! is more than we would do



THE FLEA.
by John Donne

1. Mark but this flea, and mark in this,
2. How little that which **thou** deniest me is;
3. It suck'd me first, and now sucks **thee**,
4. And in this flea our two bloods mingled
be,
5. Thou know'st that this cannot be said
6. A sin, nor shame, nor loss of
maidenhead;
7. Yet this enjoys before it **woo**,
8. And **pamper'd** swells with one blood
made of two;
9. And this, alas! is more than we would do

KEY VOCAB

-**Thou**= you

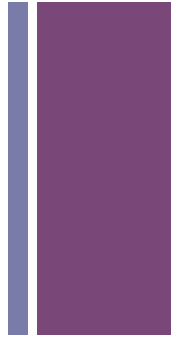
-**Thee**= you

-**Thy**= you

-**Maidenhead**= virginity.

-**Woo**= to seek the favor,
affection, or love of with intent
to marry

-**Pamper'd**= to overfeed,
especially with very rich food





10. O stay, three lives in one flea spare

11. Where we almost, yea, more than
married are

12. This flea is you and I, and this

13. Our marriage bed, and marriage
temple is.

14. Though parents grudge, and you, we're
met,

15. And cloister'd in these living walls of
jet.

16. Though use make you apt to kill me,

17. Let not to that self-murder added be,

18. And sacrilege, three sins in killing
three.

KEY VOCAB

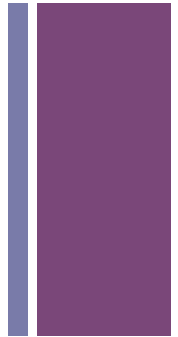
-Stay=to suspend or delay

-Cloister'd=secluded from the
world; from Cloister-to confine in a
monastery or convent.

-Jet=a compact black coal,
susceptible of a high polish, used for
making beads, jewelry, buttons, etc.
“black as jet.”

-Apt= likely or prone to

-Sacrilege=the violation or
profanation of anything sacred or
held sacred.



+

19. Cruel and sudden, **hast** thou since

20. **purpled** thy nail in blood of innocence?

21. **Wherein** could this flea guilty be,

22. Except in that drop which it suck'd from thee?

23. Yet thou **triumph'st**, and say'st that thou

24. Find'st not thyself nor me the weaker now.

25. 'Tis true ; then learn how false fears be;

26. Just so much **honour**, when thou **yield'st** to me,

27. Will waste, as this flea's death took life from thee

KEY VOCAB

-**Hast**= Has

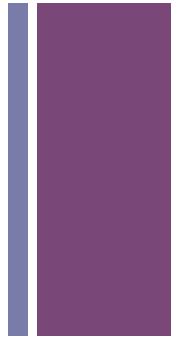
-**Purpled**= bloodied

-**Wherein**= In what place or respect

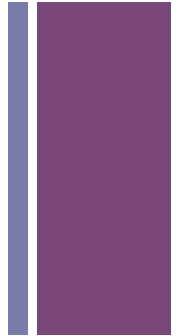
-**Triumph'st**= Victorious; conquering

-**Honour**= (great respect, regard, esteem) Here it means reputation

-**Yield'st**= to give, surrender, give in



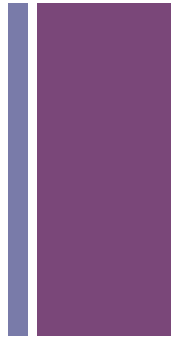
+ Why a Flea?



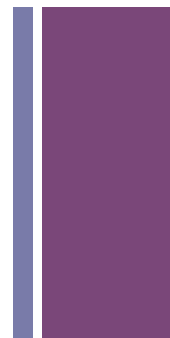
What are the characteristics of the FLEA?	What do these characteristic's represent in the poem?
"It suck'd" blood	It has taken blood from the speaker and the woman and mixed them together- to mingle blood is an old term for 'sex'
Enjoyed "before it woo"	Took the woman's blood without asking for her hand in marriage and mingled there blood without compliments
"Jet" black	They mingled there blood in these, dark, safe, holy walls – nobody can see (nobody will see)
"Innocent" death	The innocence of the flea is similar to Donne's theory that pre-marital sex is also innocent

+ Group 1

Scorpion



+ Group 2

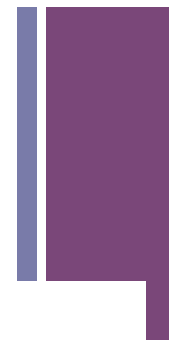


Bee

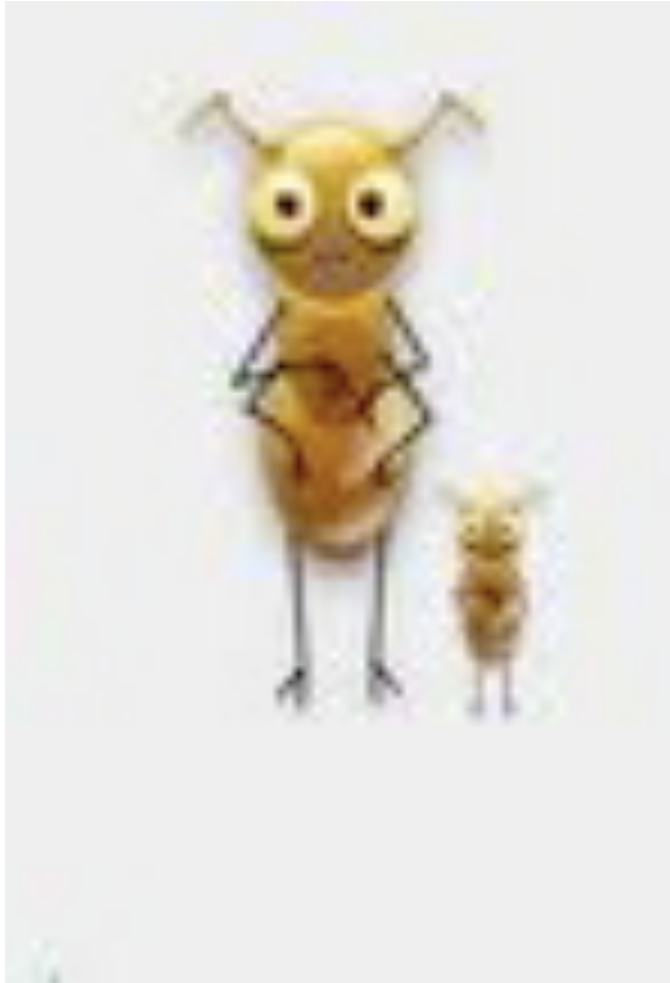


+ Group 3

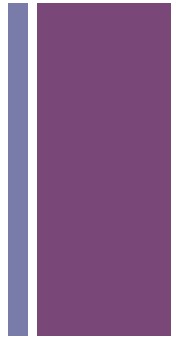
Butterfly



+ Group 4



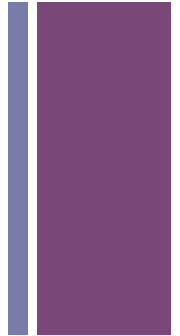
Ant



+ Example- Spider

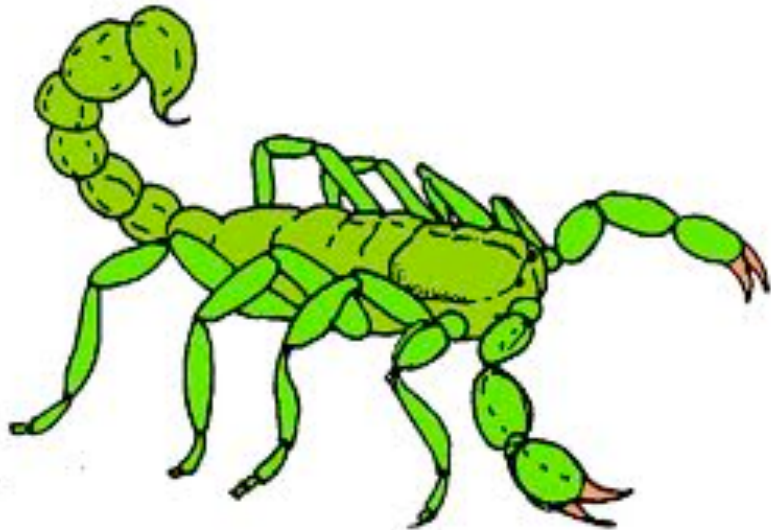
1. Spiders make webs
2. Spiders eat smaller insects
3. Spiders sit and wait for long periods of time
4. Spiders like dark, cool places
5. Spiders wrap up their prey like leftovers- taking a long time to eat them

If you run out of descriptions of actions that your insect makes feel free to describe the insect physically



+ Group 1

Insect=
Scorpion



Topic=
Heartbreak

+ Group 2

Insect= Bee



**Topic=
crime**

+ Group 3

Insect=
Butterfly



Topic=
Inspiration

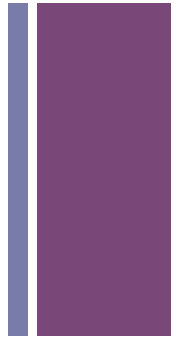
+ Group 4

Insect=

Ant



Topic= Fear



+ Example-
Spider=Insect, death=topic

He lies in **wait** for me

Hanging on the invisible threads of time

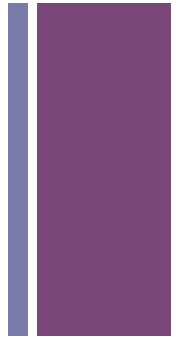
Weaving a web to capture me

A trap, most cleverly set

Sticky, clear and unavoidable

In the **dark places** I forgot about

Death waits, like this spider, to snuff me out



+ Helping Questions

- How does your insect represent your topic? Look at your groups list of traits and try to make a connection!
- Think about John Donne's *The Flea*, and how he incorporated a flea's characteristics
- **REMEMBER= 5 line minimum free verse poem (can rhyme if you like)**

+ HW

- Your hw is to look at the poem *THE BROKEN HEART* by John Donne. Read it at least 3 times!
 - I also want you to go through the whole poem and underline what you believe makes this poem a “Metaphysical poem.”
- What is the theme? Where are the metaphors? What ideas does John Donne use that are new/strange? How is it different from *THE FLEA*?