

WRITING EXERCISE 3: "TO HIS COY MISTRESS" CHARACTER ANALYSIS
Directions: Argue that the speaker in the poem is a round (complex) character because he is a gifted poet capable of using language artistically; however, he uses his gift to try to satisfy his base impulses, by trying to persuade the coy mistress to have sex with him.

I. Introduction

Name the type of poem (carpe diem / dirge).
Summarize the three stanzas, noting the change in tone in each stanza: What would the speaker do if time wasn't an issue? What is Time going to do? Therefore what should they do and how should they do it?

Paraphrase Pollitt's definition of round and flat characters. Mention if the speaker is Marvel or a persona he created. 427

Write your thesis, answering the thesis question in the affirmative:

Does the fact that the speaker uses his great skill as a poet to convince the mistress to have sex make him round?

Poetic use of language example 1: Intelligent allusions

Poetic use of language example 2: Clever evocative metaphors

Poetic use of language example 3: Personification of "light" as a person

Poetic use of language example 4: Word choice and imagery to create tone

III. Conclusion

Conclusion
Explain what insight the poem gives about nature, specifically human nature.

Is the speaker using his poetic talents to inspire humanity?

Works Cited page

Pollitt, *Analyzing Literature Is Easy*

Marvell (from an anthology)

Marvell, Andrew. "To His Coy Mistress." *Literature: What Is Good For?* 8th ed. Eds.

Hope Bliss and Payne Kantwright. *Bombay: Attack the Text* Publishing, 2011. 301-

303. Print.

TO HIS COY MISTRESS

	Line	
1 Had we/but world/enough,/and time,	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
2 This coyness, lady, were no crime.	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
3 We would sit down, and think which way	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
4 To walk, and pass our long love's day.	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
5 Thou by the Indian Ganges' side	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
6 Shouldst rubies find; I by the tide	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
7 Of Humber would complain. I would	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
8 Love you ten years before the flood,	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
9 And you should, if you please, refuse	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
10 Till the conversion of the Jews. <i>overset of moment</i>	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
11 My vegetable love should grow	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
12 Vaster than empires and more slow;	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
13 An hundred years should go to praise	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
14 Thine eyes, and on thy forehead gaze;	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
15 Two hundred to adore each breast,	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
16 But thirty thousand to rest;	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
17 An age at least to every part,	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
18 And the last age should show your heart.	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
19 For lady, you deserve this state,	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
20 Nor would I love at lower rate.	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
21 <i>tone changes Volta</i> But at my back I always hear	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near;	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation
And yonder all before us lie	_____	iambic tetrameter / variation

Deserts of vast eternity

Thy beauty shall no more be found,

Nor, in thy marble vault, shall sound

My echoing song; then worms shall try

That long-preserved virginity,

And your quaint honor 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 the 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

Thorough the iron gates of life:

Thus, though we cannot make our sun

Stand still, yet we will make him run.

—Andrew Marvel

_____ lambic tetrameter / variation

_____ lambic tetrameter / variation

_____ lambic tetrameter / variation

_____ lambic tetrameter / variation

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