

Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World

Topic 2 Content: "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Introduction

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title

Paraphrase

Connotation

Attitude/Tone

Shift

Title Revisited

Theme

Introduction

In this interactivity, click the **NEXT** button to examine and analyze the poem "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" by Robert Herrick, using the TPCASTT method.



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Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World Topic 2 Content: "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title	Title
Paraphrase	By considering the title "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time," you can already guess that the poem is addressed to virgins, which are likely going to be young, unmarried women considering the time period in which Herrick lived.
Connotation	
Attitude/Tone	The title also suggests the message or aim of the poem: to make much of time. What do you think this could mean? Is the speaker going to advise young women on how to take full advantage of time? Do you think you will come across the <i>carpe diem</i> theme in this poem?
Shift	
Title Revisited	
Theme	

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Paraphrase

The screenshot shows a digital tool interface for analyzing the poem "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time". On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with seven buttons: "Title", "Paraphrase", "Connotation", "Attitude/Tone", "Shift", "Title Revisited", and "Theme". The "Paraphrase" button is currently selected and highlighted. The main content area on the right is titled "Paraphrase" and contains the following text:

Review this example paraphrase of the poem:

Pick flowers while you can
Time is flying by
The flower that's pretty today
Tomorrow will be dying

That glorious sun in the sky
The higher he gets
The sooner his journey across the sky will end
And the closer he'll be to setting

The best age in life is youth
When your body is young and in shape
The worst age is when your body is old and worn out
And worse times will follow after youth

So don't be coy and instead use your time
Go get married while you can

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So don't be coy and instead use your time
Go get married while you can
Because if you wait too long and youth passes you by
You might put off marriage forever

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Connotation

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title	<h4>Connotation</h4> <p>The poem includes many references that have special connotations. For example, the first stanza presents the imagery of rosebuds and flowers. To many Western cultures, flowers, and especially roses, are associated with youth and beauty.</p> <p>In addition, the second stanza uses connotations associated with the sun to create a powerful metaphor. People often liken the passing of time to the trajectory of the sun. By comparing the path of the sun through the sky to the lifespan of the young women, the poem very effectively points out that the closer the beautiful sun gets to the highest point in the sky (passing through youth), the closer it gets to setting (approaching death).</p>
Paraphrase	
Connotation	
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Attitude/Tone

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title	Attitude/Tone The tone of the poem can be described as lighthearted and friendly. You might get the feeling that the speaker is not trying to persuade the young women to marry for selfish reasons but rather that he is sincerely looking out for their well-being. For women during this time period, marriage was usually the only means of achieving financial security since women were not allowed to hold paying jobs. Thus, marriage was a very significant event in a woman's life.
Paraphrase	
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Shift

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title	<h4>Shift</h4> <p>When examining this poem for a distinct shift, you may have found that the tone and message of the poem stay consistent from beginning to end. Even the very first stanza points out that today's roses will die tomorrow.</p> <p>Although not every poem will have a definitive shift, the search for a possible shift will still give you further insight into the poem's meaning. For example, you may have noticed that the first three stanzas begin on a positive note (beautiful flowers, a bright sun, youth as the prime of one's life). Yet each of these stanzas ends on a gloomier note: that time flies by and these good things will not last forever. The repetition of this message builds in persuasiveness so that by the time the speaker offers his advice in the last stanza (get married now while you can), the reader cannot resist his argument.</p>
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Title Revisited

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" TPCASTT

Title

Paraphrase

Connotation

Attitude/Tone

Shift

Title Revisited

Theme

Title Revisited

Now that you have closely examined the poem, you can revisit the title and reassess any predictions that you made. You now know with certainty that the poem is addressed to young, unmarried women. You also understand that making much of time does indeed refer to spending one's time wisely. In this poem, it turns out that the time young women should take full advantage of is their youth.

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Theme

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Title	<h4>Theme</h4> <p>As is the case for most Cavalier poems, the theme of "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" embraces the philosophy of <i>carpe diem</i>, or "seize the day." To the speaker, the prime time for young women to get married is when they are still young and beautiful. If they wait too long to accept a husband, they are likely to never marry at all because after one's youth is gone, life only gets worse with old age.</p>
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