

**Rhetoric Literature Year 2**  
**Poets of the 1600s/Intro to Neo Classical Era**  
**Due Co-op #12**

**Poetics Reading & Vocabulary – focus on this during FIRST WEEK.**

**Neoclassical Era 1640 – 1777**

**Read: Introduction and The Neoclassical Worldview as a set of Presuppositions (p. 186-189)**

“The Neoclassical age, it might be said, was the era in which the sun moved.” What does this mean? How does it apply to literature?

“The Neoclassicists possessed two Renaissance characteristics to an even greater degree than their ancestors: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

They did not \_\_\_\_\_ God, but they did gradually tend to remove Him from the \_\_\_\_\_ of things. Scripture was not yet \_\_\_\_\_ as a true testimony, but its \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of many.

What does it mean that God became a great Clockmaker?

Neoclassical era was a great age for Christian literature. In England, the authors combined two things to create religious lyrics (Donne, Herbert, Marvell), *Pilgrim's Progress* by Bunyan, and *Paradise Lost* by Milton. What were these two things:

- 1.
- 2.

Name at least three ways literature was affected or influenced by the politics of the century.

**Read: Literary Artistry and the Spirit of Neoclassicism (p.192-194)**

What is the Age of Reason? List some characteristics of this era and how it showed up in literature.

What is the Enlightenment? List some characteristics of this era and how it showed up in literature.

**SKIM English Poets in the Age of Reason: Metaphysical, Cavalier, and Christian (p. 194 – 199).** Pay attention to these charts. Skim the sections on genre and forms (you will find definitions for vocabulary in this section;). We will be going over this in class – don't feel like you have to absorb all this. But, go ahead if you want☺

What does it mean to be a metaphysical poet?

List two main metaphysical poets:

- 1.
- 2.

What does it mean to be a cavalier poet?

List five main cavalier poets:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Who were the three poets classified as Christian?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Vocabulary** (please place these in your vocabulary/terms section) (you can find these definitions in your Poetics readings or in Week 23 Rhetoric Literature SAP.)

Metaphysical Conceit (Concept)

Verse Epistle

Verse Satire

Epigram

Ode

Elegy

Elegy (funeral)

Elegy (love)

Emblem poem

Country-house poem

Meditative Religious Lyric

Carpe Diem Poem

Song

Hymn

**Think of the following part of the assignment for WEEK TWO of study. Read the following poems in Norton's or online. Read biographical information on each poet (in Norton's or online)**

**John Donne**

"Song"

"A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"

"Holy Sonnets" 4, 6, 10

"Meditation 17"

**Andrew Marvell**

"To His Coy Mistress"

**Ben Jonson**

"On My First Son"

"Song: To Celia"

"To the Memory of My Beloved Master, William Shakespeare"

**Robert Herrick**

"To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time"

"To Daffodils"

**Sir John Suckling**

"The Constant Lover"

"Why So Pale and Wan"

**Henry Vaughn**  
"The Retreat"

**George Herbert**  
"The Altar"  
"Easter Wings"  
"Virtue"

Read all of these poems (sometimes it may take a few tries to really understand).  
Then CHOOSE ONE – a favorite – and take a stab at the following questions.

Author:

Title:

Genre (look at vocabulary):

Implied Situation (point of view/why is this being written/to whom):

Worldview:

Topic (what is poem about):

Theme (what is poet trying to say – deeper universal truth):

Imagery (image, metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe):