

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To explore the position women seem to play in Metaphysical poetry.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Have available some suitable pages from magazines aimed at young men. (Make the judgement about what is acceptable in the classroom!)
 - Discuss the image of women that they portray and promote.
 - You could collect examples of the vocabulary used in order to compare with some of the poems under study.
 - It is also worth looking at magazines aimed at young women.
 - Is there really any difference in the way girls' lifestyle is portrayed in 'girls' magazines' compared to the 'lads mags'?
- ❖ **Textual examination:**
 - Look at Marvell's *To His Coy Mistress* and identify the techniques (both poetic and persuasive) used. This should include:
 - alliteration
 - word choice
 - imagery and symbolism
 - irony
 - metaphor and simile
 - metre and pacing
 - tone
 - Either annotate a copy or write separate notes.
 - Overall, how persuasive do you find the poem?
 - What picture of the relationship between man and woman do you see?
- ❖ **Textual examination:**
 - Students should each research another Metaphysical poem which deals in some way with the relationship between male and female in the 17th century.
 - They should compare this with *To His Coy Mistress* in terms of its view of, and approach to, male and female roles.
 - Is it possible to reach any overview of the period?
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Choose one of the poems you have looked at in the above task:
 - Write the woman's response to the poet.
 - This could be in prose or (as a challenge) in verse.
- ❖ **Critical task:** 'The way men and women view each other has changed so much since the 17th Century that these poems have no relevance today.'
 - Discuss this view.
- ❖ **Extension task:** Compare the image of love given by the poems you have studied in this section, with the images of love in the same poets' religious verse.