

Brief Investigations Metaphysical poetry:

Donne: Sexual love: *Aire and Angels*, *The Dreame*, *The Flea*,
Goe and catch a falling star

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Metaphysical poetry: Donne: Sexual love

Aire and Angels, *The Dreame*, *The Flea*, *Goe and catch a falling star*

Aire and Angels

- How do you read *Aire and Angels*?
 - Is it a sexist statement about men's love?
 - Or is it a statement about the need for mutuality?
- Can you define what, for Donne, is the experience of being in love?
- How does the poem make you think about
 - What sexual love is?
 - How we express that love in language?

The Dreame

- Compare *The Dreame* to *Aire and Angels*
 - How does Donne use the idea of angels in both poems?
- What is the effect of the very short third line of each stanza?
- Although this is an erotic poem, would you say it is indecent?
 - If not, what keeps it from being so?

The Flea

- Pick out words in *The Flea* which suggest that a logical argument or dialogue is going on.
 - How does the poet still keep the verse light-hearted?
- In what way is the flea 'you and I ... and our marriage bed'?
- Compare *The Flea* to *The Dreame*
 - What are the biggest differences?

Goe and catch a falling star

- Read *Goe and catch a falling star*
 - Why is the final effort a Pilgrimage'?
- How does Donne build up the punch line to each stanza?
- Is the poem really sexist?