Brief Investigations

Metaphysical poetry: Marvell: Pastoral poems:
The Mower's Song, The Mower to the Glo-Worms, The Nymph Complaining, The Picture of Little T.C., Upon Appleton House

The Mower's Song

- Read through The Mower's Song
  - List the images and phrases that contrast Nature (the meadows) and the Mower?
  - What is Juliana's role in the poem?

The Mower to the Glo-Worms

- Read through Marvell's The Mower to the Glo-Worms
  - Is it about love, or passion, or infatuation?
  - Look at the play on 'ignis fatuus' and 'infatuation'
  - Why does he say 'have lost their aim' rather than 'their way'?
  - Compare this to a Herbert poem. What is the difference of quality between Marvell's simplicity and Herbert's?

The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Faun

- Read through Marvell's The Nymph Complaining
  - To what extent is can you sense a deeper meaning in this a sad story about the loss of a loved pet?
  - What is the nymph's attitude to her ex-lover and the soldiers?
  - What do you find attractive in the poem?

The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers

- Read through Marvell's The Picture of little T.C.
  - What does 'his Bow broke and his Ensigns torn' refer to?
  - Why does he call her 'young beauty of the Woods'?
  - How does Marvell convey his ambivalent feelings?
  - How can childhood innocence be vulnerable?

Upon Appleton House, to my Lord Fairfax

- Read through Upon Appleton House
  - Do you sense that Marvell enjoyed his time at Nun Appleton House?
    - What did he find most congenial there?
  - What is Marvell's attitude to Fairfax himself? (XLIV-XLV)
  - Compare the mowers in the meadows section (L-LV) with The Mower's Song.