

# Investigate! Metaphysical poetry:

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#### ❖ **Setting the scene:**

- Pick out some of the references to mountains in Vaughan's *Regeneration*
- What other elements might be associated with Welsh scenery?
- Why do writers often use the image of a journey to convey a spiritual autobiography such as this?

#### ❖ **Going deeper:**

- Read through Vaughan's *Regeneration*
  - What is the interpretation of the stones and the flowers in stanzas 8 and 9?
  - Does the fountain have any symbolic value?
  - How many of the natural details are we meant to try to interpret?
- Does Vaughan give us any clues?

#### ❖ **Themes:**

- Look again at the section on the theme of *Regeneration*
- Do you see any other important theme?
- Why do you think Vaughan offers hints rather than exact explanations?

#### ❖ **Imagery and symbolism:**

- What images stand out for you in *Regeneration*?
  - Are they 'symbolic' or just descriptive?
- How does Vaughan appeal to our senses in this poem as well as to our mind?

#### ❖ **Language and tone:**

- Would you prefer more explanation, or is *Regeneration* full (or long) enough already?
- Would you agree that certain expressions seem a little awkward?
  - Or would you defend them?
- Comment on: 'heaven its azure did unfold/ Checqu'd with snowie fleeces' and compare with 'The aire was all in spice'.

#### ❖ **Structure and versification:**

- Look at the structure of *Regeneration*
  - What does Vaughan achieve with his very short lines?
- Compare this poem with Herbert's *Affliction I*.
  - What are the major differences and similarities?
- What do you find most appealing about the poem?