

Investigate! Metaphysical poetry:

Andrew Marvell, *The Garden*

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❖ **Going deeper:**

- Read through *The Garden*
- Have you ever had the experience of time almost stopping?
 - What brought about the circumstances?
- Explain lines 63-64, about the two Paradises
- Compare the thought here to that in Marvell's *To his Coy Mistress*
 - Compare this to Donne's *The Extasie*

❖ **Themes:**

- Look at the notes about Marvell's pastoralism in *The Garden*
 - In our crowded and busy world, is it still possible to achieve such inner tranquillity?
- Pick out words and phrases in the poem that suggest peace
- Pick out others that suggest movement, noise, confusion

❖ **Imagery and symbolism:**

Look at the closing stanza of *The Garden*

- Discuss the final symbol, of the flower clock

- Pick out words of order and beauty
- Do the natural images here tie in with those in stanza five?
 - Or do they represent some quite different idea?

❖ **Language and tone:**

- Collect words and phrases from *The Garden* that suggest richness and luxury
- How does Marvell make his world seem both natural and yet ordered and comfortable?

❖ **Structure and versification:**

- What do you find particularly effective about *The Garden*?
- How does Marvell draw the reader in?
- What is the difference between pastoral poetry and nature poetry?