

# Investigate! Metaphysical poetry:

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#### ❖ **Setting the scene:**

Look out for clues as to whether the poem is a 'joke' or a 'mood' poem.

- What sort of clues could you look for?
- Can you relate to being somewhere where you felt totally at odds with the general mood or the mood you were supposed to feel?

#### ❖ **Going deeper:**

Who is Donne addressing in the poem?

- Do you think the poem really is as sexist as it sounds, or this apparent sexism part of a wider joke?

#### ❖ **Themes:**

What are the main features of any complaint, literary or not?

- What do you understand by 'the Complaint' as literature?
- Can you think of other literary complaints?

#### ❖ **Imagery and symbolism:**

- Donne is hoping to be cured in the first four lines.
  - In what way?
  - Cured of what?

- In what ways does Donne take conventional love imagery and turn it upside down?

#### ❖ **Language and tone:**

- In stanza two, there is a variant reading for 'nor leave this garden'. Some versions have 'nor yet leave loving'.
  - Which do you prefer?
  - Why?
- Look at the language of appearance and reality; and of truth and falsity.
  - Pick out some of the phrases Donne uses.

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

Read through *Twicknam Garden* once more

- Where do you see the real power of the poem lying?