

Donne 'perplexes the minds of the fair sex with nice speculations of philosophy, when he should engage their hearts and entertain them with the softness of love.'

*John Dryden*

'The word "metaphysical" refers to style, rather than subject-matter; but style reflects an attitude to experience.'

*Joan Bennett (Cambridge 1934)*

'If their conceits were far-fetched, they were often worth the carriage.'

*Dr Johnson*

'Metaphysical poetry is not afraid of ideas and concepts.'

*www.crossref-it.info*

Metaphysical poetry's 'quintessence or soul is the vivid imagining of a moment of experience or of a situation out of which the need to argue, or persuade, or define arises.'

*Helen Gardner (Introduction to The Penguin Metaphysical Poets, 1957)*

'...there *is* something dark, something dangerous, behind the flamboyance and conspicuous exertion of the Metaphysical imagination.'

*Linda Gregerson, University of Michigan, 2001*

After reading some Metaphysical poetry, add your own definition.