

Andrew Marvell
To his coy mistress
Some challenging questions!

Worksheet by:
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1. "Had we but world enough, and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime."
 - Supply ONE word for "Had we but world enough, and time". (1)
 - What does the poet mean by "coyness"? (2)
 - Why does the poet refer to this "coyness" as "no crime"? When would it be "a crime"? (4)

2. "We would sit down and think which way
To walk, and pass our long love's day;
Thou by the Indian Ganges' side
Shouldst rubies find; I by the tide
Of Humber would complain."
 - Comment on the poet's reference to the Ganges and the Humber. (4)
 - Comment on the poet's choice of words when he writes, "We would sit down and think which way | To walk, and pass our long love's day." (6)

3. "I would
Love you ten years before the Flood;
And you should, if you please, refuse
Till the conversion of the Jews."
 - Explain the expressions "ten years before the Flood" and "till the conversion of the Jews". (4)

4. "My vegetable love should grow
Vaster than empires, and more slow."
 - What does the poet mean by "My vegetable love"? (4)

5. "An hundred years should go to praise
Thine eyes, and on thy forehead gaze;
Two hundred to adore each breast,
But thirty thousand to the rest;
An age at least to every part,
And the last age should show your heart."
 - Explain how the poet uses degrees of comparison in these words -- or referred to as Climax -- which reveals the way in which he views his lady-love's body. (6)

6. "For, lady, you deserve this state,
Nor would I love at lower rate."
 - Show how these words pay due honour to the lady's social environment and to the accepted etiquette to which she is supposed to adhere. (4)

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