

John Donne
The Sun Rising
Stanza 3

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This is a rather complicated but saucy love poem in which the poet addresses the Sun and speaks to him about love and about his loved one. The poet centres on the heat of passion and on the solitary focus of the two lovers: they are the centre of the universe, while all wealth and happiness is but an imitation of their wealth and happiness.

1. "She is all states, and all princes I;
Nothing else is;
Princes do but play us; compared to this,
All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy."
 - What does the poet mean when he says, "She is all states, and all princes I"? (4)
 - In what way do princes "play us"? (2)
 - What is alchemy? (2)
 - What does the poet mean when he says, "All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy"? (4)

2. "Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
This bed thy centre is, these walls thy sphere."
 - The poet makes fun of the power or worth of the Sun. In what way does he do this? (2)
 - Why does the poet claim that, were the Sun to shine on them, then "thou art everywhere"? (4)
 - What is the significance of the poet's conclusion, "This bed thy centre is, these walls thy sphere"? (2)

3. This poet is loaded with sexual innuendo.
 - Can you find examples of this? (10)

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