

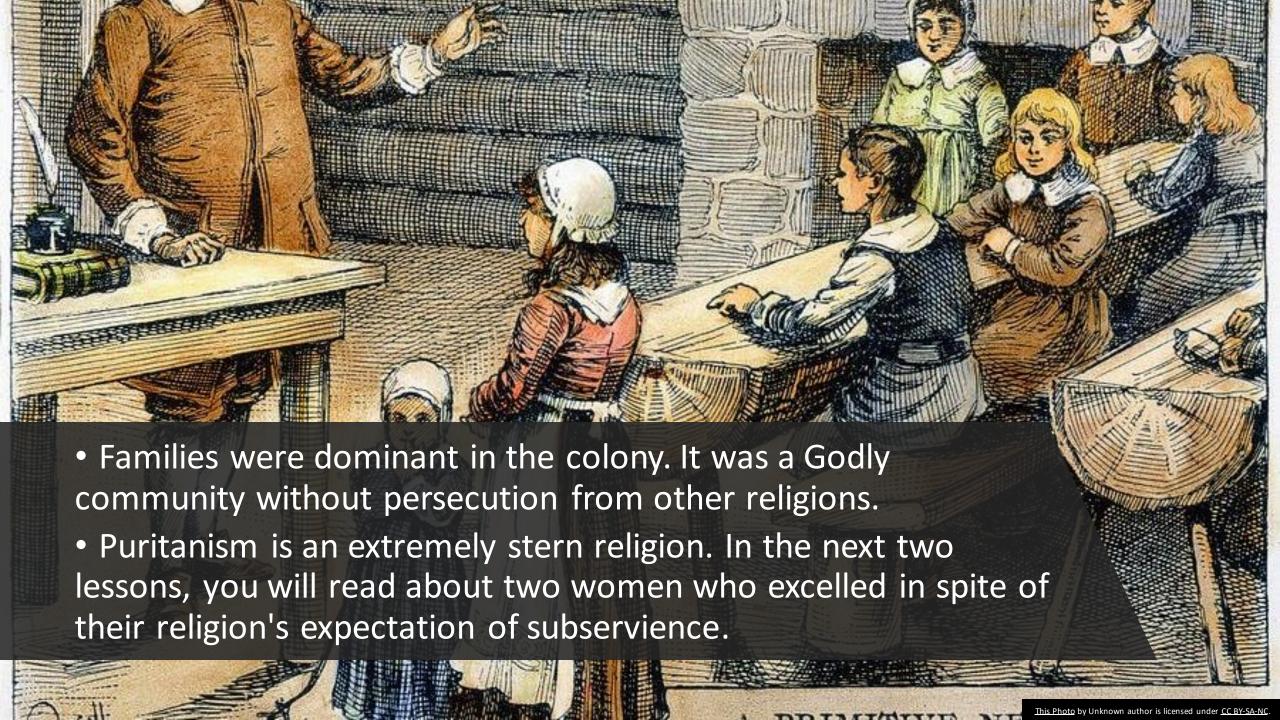
• Puritanism is a religious movement and a way of life.

According to *Merriam*-Webster, a Puritan is "a member of a Protestant group in England and New England in the 16th and 17th centuries that opposed many customs of the Church of England."



 The Puritans traveled to set up another colony in America for their religion's sake. They wanted to "purify" the church. They believed that there was too much hierarchy in the Catholic Church and too much persecution in the Church of England, so they separated from these churches and made a decision to adhere strictly to their beliefs.





 Let's look at the characteristics of the Puritans.

They believed:

- Man is born corrupt because of Eve's sin.
- Adam and Eve "The First Sin"
- Not everyone can go to heaven; eternal life is predestined.



- Puritan characteristics (continued)...
- The church must become more pure.
- -A church deacon can poke anyone misbehaving in church
- -The minister's sermon can last from one to four hours.
- -Families cannot sit together at church.
- -The Bible is the only authority.
- -Men are superior to women.
- -No one can own land unless he is a church member.

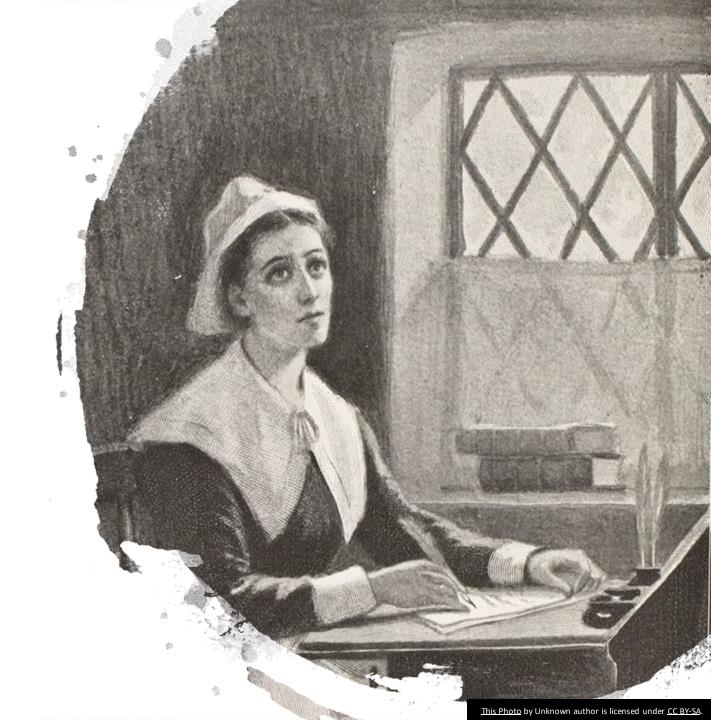
• -Do you think people still believe in those doctrines today?

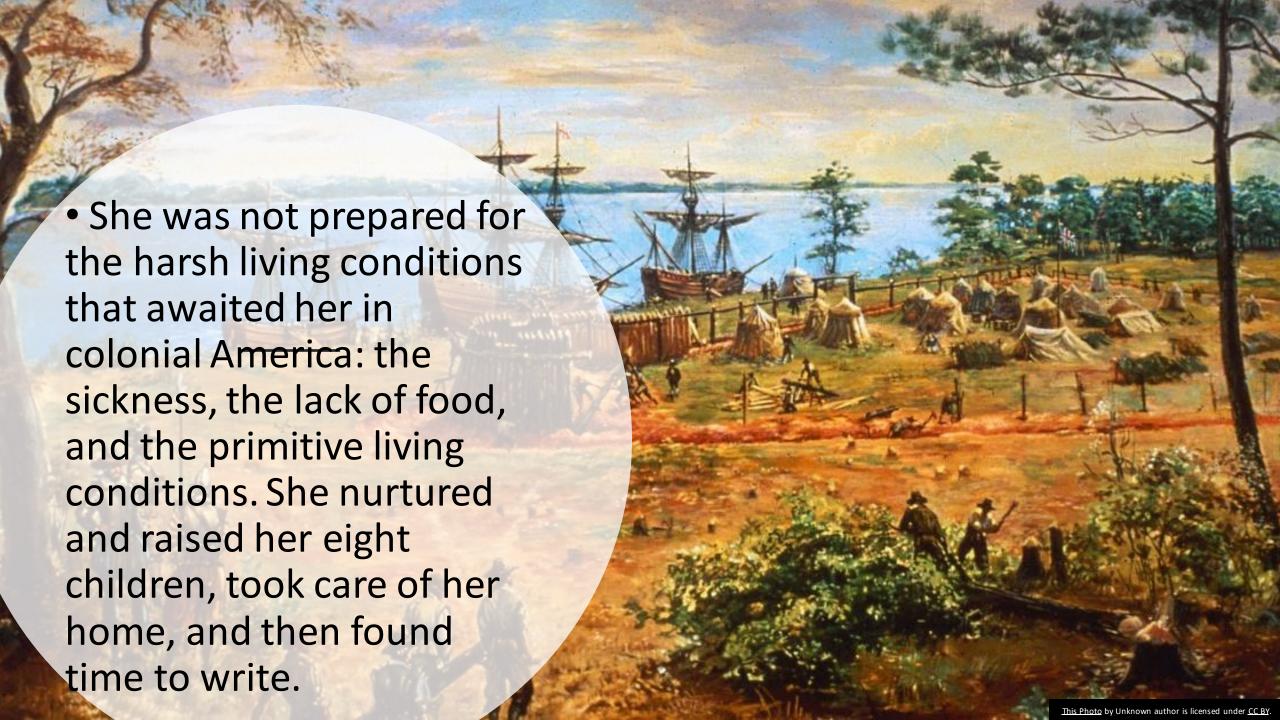
The First Woman in a Man's World

• Anne Bradstreet is a significant woman in American history. She is considered the first

American poet.

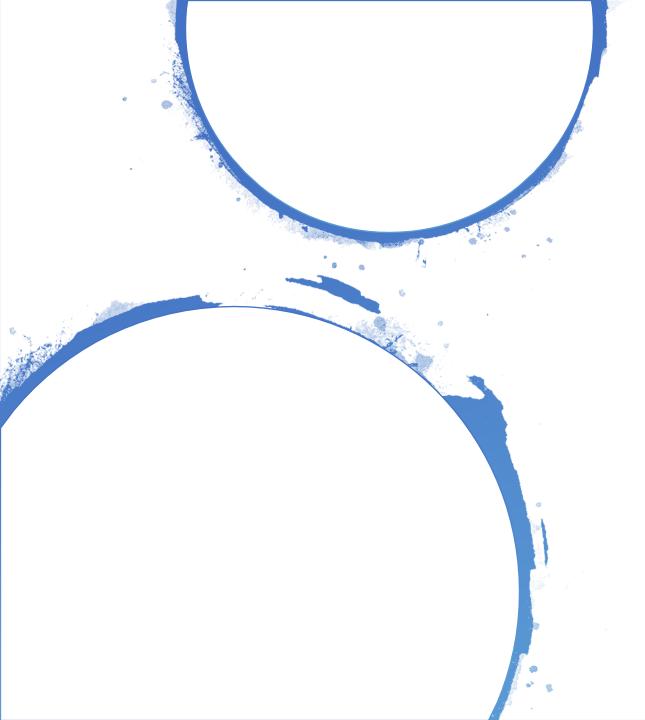
• When she was eighteen years old, she sailed to America with her husband Simon.





- Later, her father and her husband would become governors of Massachusetts.
- Anne Bradstreet was a Puritan.
- Like many others, she believed that God controls the world and the people in it.
- Her poems are about her feelings of the joys and difficulties of Puritan life

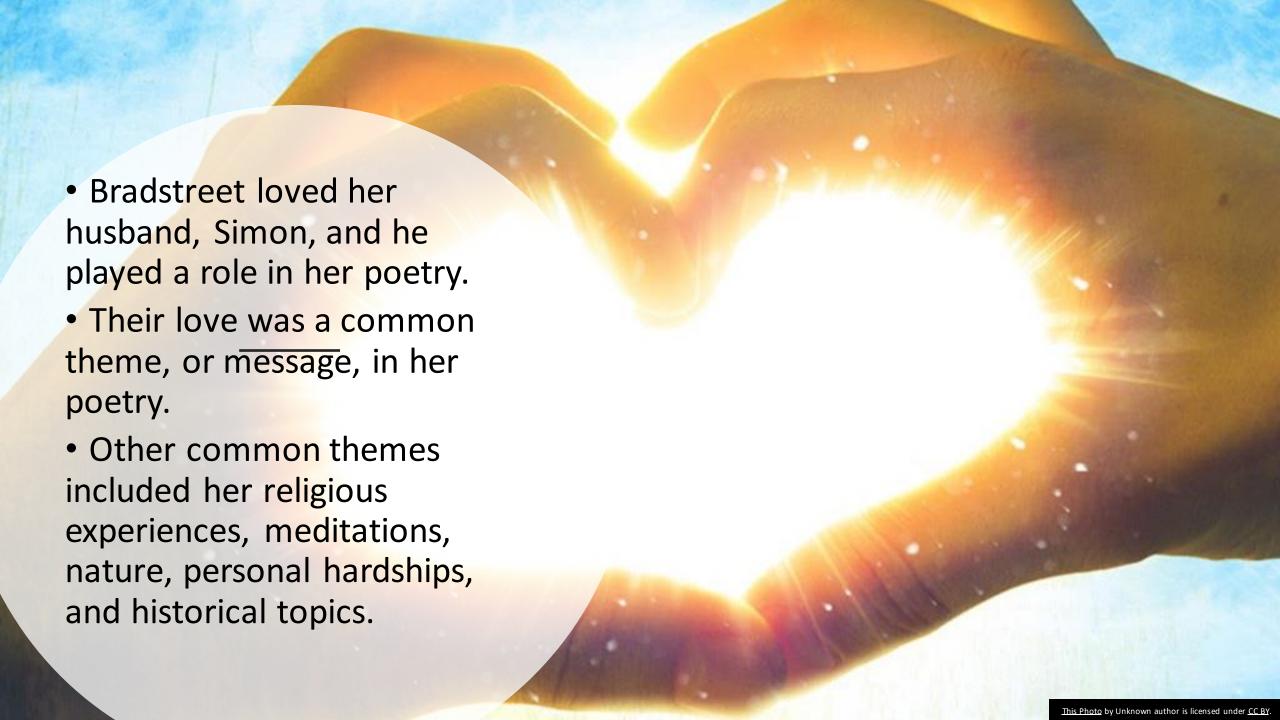




- Bradstreet's poems were intended for her family's eyes only, especially since many poems were intimate writings to her husband.
- Puritans believed in public morality, so Bradstreet's poems should not have been shared with the public. However, her brother-in-law sent them off to England to be published.



- Anne Bradstreet did not want to return to England, despite how privileged her life was there.
- She was concerned about the cultural bias toward women; it was believed that a woman's place was in the home tending to the family and husband. Thus, the public criticized her writing.



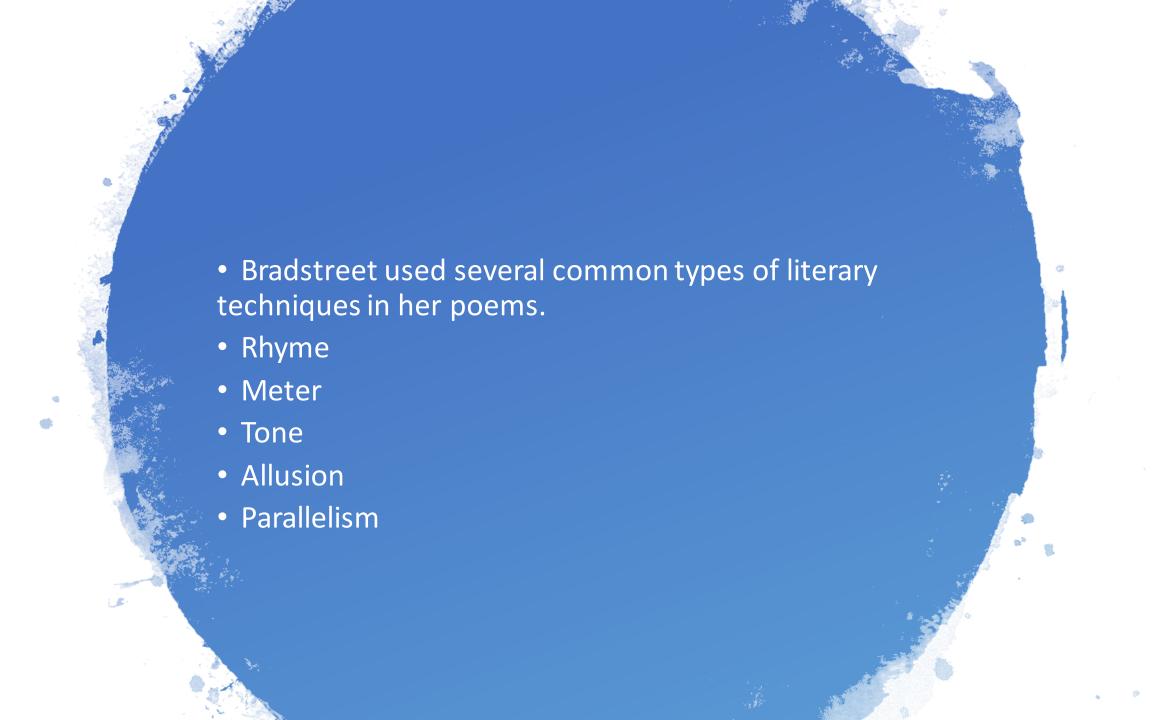
• Listen to Anne Bradstreet: American's First Poet (8:19), an NPR interview with author Charlotte Gordon to learn more about Anne Bradstreet.

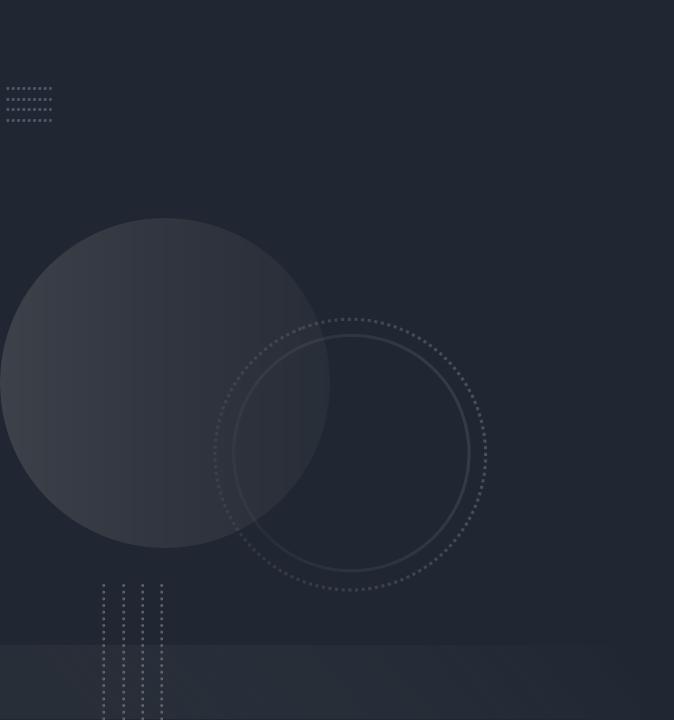
Bradstreet's Writing Style

- Anne Bradstreet's writing followed the literary technique of the Puritans, which was plain style.
- The Puritans believed that ornate speech covered up God's truth, so the plain style lacked classical allusions or elaborate figures of speech.



- This also reflected the plain style of their lives: sparse, simple, and straightforward.
- Although Puritans primarily wrote in the plain style, they still incorporated literary techniques.





A rhyme is when two or more words have the same sound endings but different beginning sounds.

For example: Star / Jar

- When an author chooses to make certain end lines rhyme with each other, he or she incorporates a **rhyme scheme**.
- • You can identify the rhyme scheme of a poem by looking at the last word of each line.
- Begin with the letter *a*, and place it at the end of the first line.
- If the next line rhymes with the first, then it will be a as well.
- If it does not rhyme with the first line, then you would place the letter *b* at the end.





To sing of wars, of captains, and of **kings**, Of cities founded, commonwealths **begun**, For my mean pen are too superior **things**: Or how they all, or each, their dates have **run**;

Let poets and historians set these **forth**, My obscure lines shall not so dim their **work**.

• Explanation: forth and work are known as slant rhymes. A slant rhyme means that not all of its vowels or consonants sounds match those of the rhyming word. This is also known as partial rhyme, off rhyme, half rhyme, and near rhyme.

- Meter is systematically arranged and measured rhythm in verse. It is the regular pattern of strong and weak stress.
- Bradstreet used **iambic pentameter** in her "Prologue."

This is a line of verse that consists of five iambs; an **iamb** is one **unstressed** syllable followed by one **stressed**.

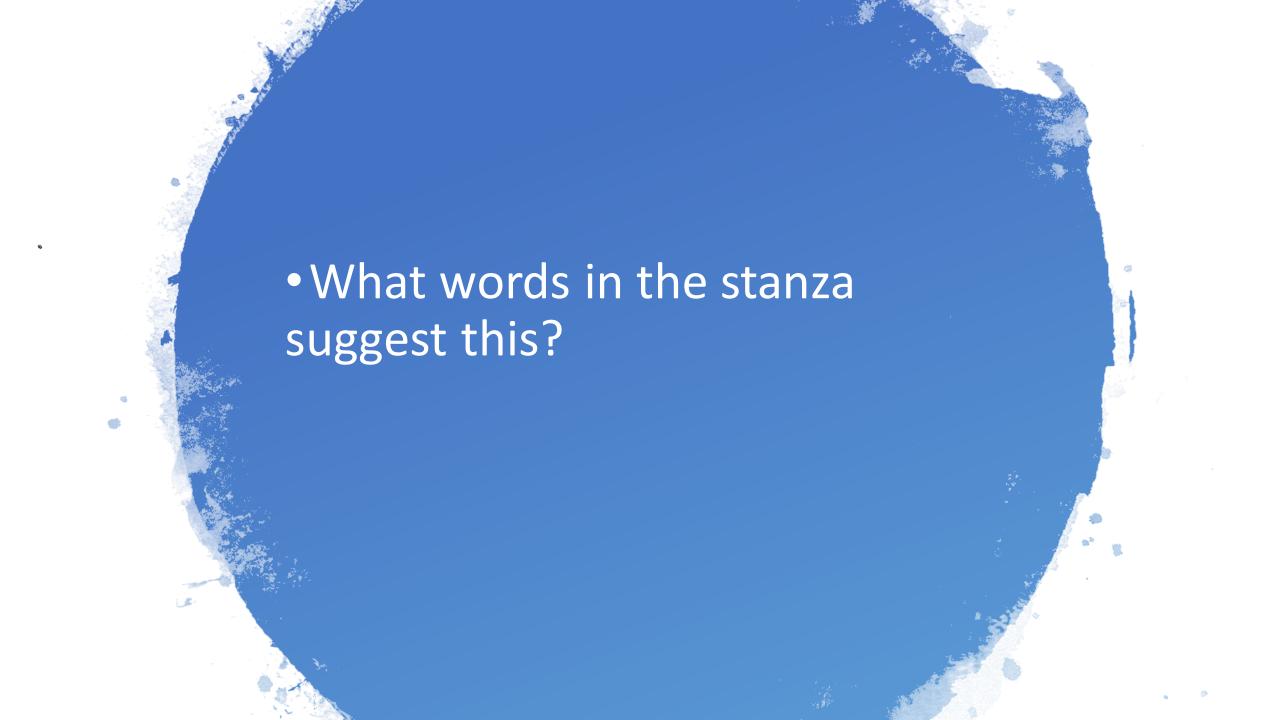
To sing/ of wars, / of cap/ tains, and/ of kings.

- Now, you try. First, identify all the stressed syllables in the line below; then identify all the unstressed syllables.
- Of ci/ties found/ed, com/monwealths/ begun.
- My fool/ish, bro/ken, blem/ished Muse/ so sings
- Stressed Syllables:
- Found, beGUN, FOOI/ish, BRO/ken, BLEM/ished, MUSE, so SINGS,
- Of ci/ties found/ed, com/monwealths/ begun.
- My fool/ish, bro/ken, blem/ished Muse/ so sings

- Tone is the author's attitude toward a subject.
- You can recognize the tone by the word choice the author uses. The language the author chooses reveals the author's opinion of the subject. Of course, this can be positive or negative.
- Read the stanza below.
- But when my wondering eyes and envious heart Great Bartas' sugared lines do but read o'er, Fool I do grudge the Muses did not part 'Twixt him and me that overfluent store;--A Bartas can do what a Bartas will, But simple I according to my skill.



• Answer: Humbled, Bradstreet says she isn't as good as the French poet Bartas, but she does have skill of her own merit.



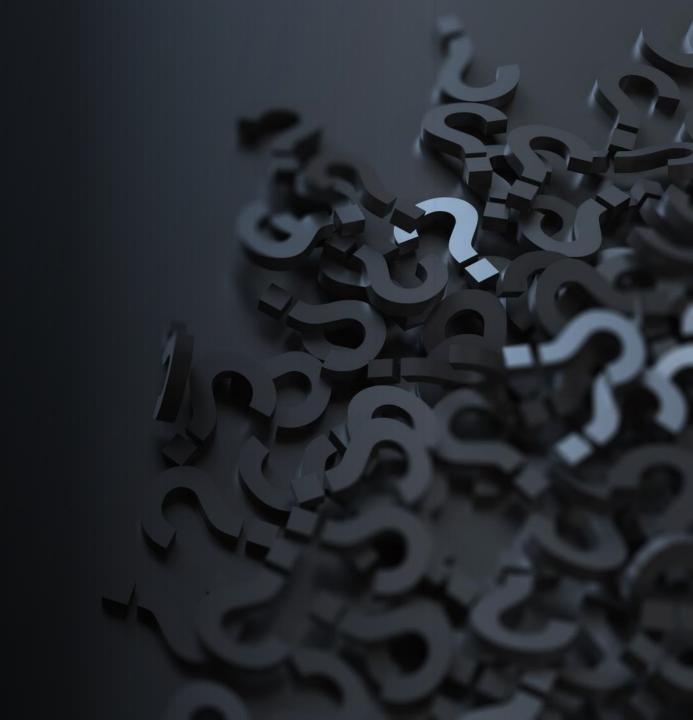
• The first three lines are parallel because they all begin the same way: with a dependent clause, "If ever."



Why are lines 1 - 3 parallel?

"If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man..."

Answer: The first three lines are parallel because they all begin the same way: With a dependent clause, "if ever."



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Look at Romeo; he has all the ladies listening to him.

My dad is Scrooge; he won't buy me a new cell phone.

Kevin better be glad he isn't Pinocchio, or his nose would be extremely long right now.

What do all three of these sentences have in common?

Answer: They are allusions.

An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a person, place, event, story, or art from literature, music, pop culture, etc.

What is the allusion in the line below?

"Great Bartas' sugared lines do but read o'er"





- Vocabulary is rich and meaningful. Authors choose words carefully. Identify and fill in the blank the word that you will see in Bradstreet's poems to the sentences where they best fit.
- recompense
- manifold
- Nestasia bought my popcorn when it was buy one get one free; do you think that is a fair _____ for me buying her movie ticket?
- Disney World has _____ attractions and activities for my whole family.
- Use the Merriam-Webster dictionary if needed.
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Answer: Recompense, manifold



- Identify and fill in the blank the word that you will see in Bradstreet's poems to the sentences where they best fit.
- Use the Merriam-Webster dictionary if needed.
- persevere
- requital
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary
- I loaned my brother Ben lunch money, and his _____ was more than enough to buy that shirt I wanted.
- If you want to become successful at anything, you must ____ and not give up.

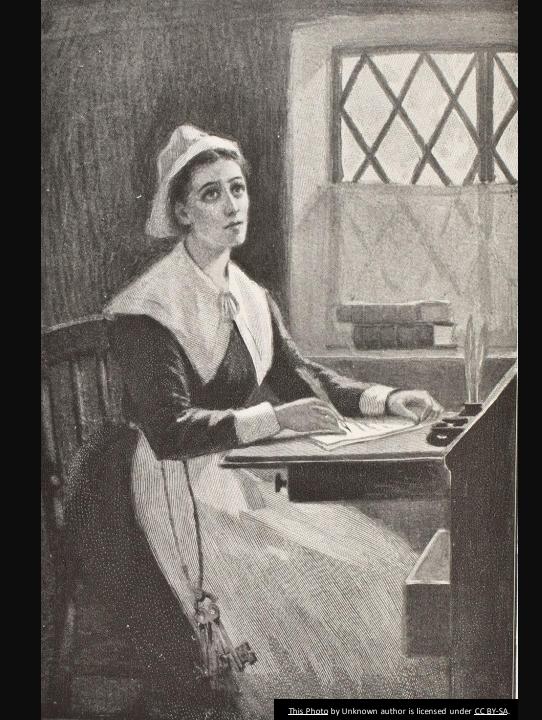




- Answer: requital, persevere
- Identify and fill in the blank the word that you will see in Bradstreet's poems to the sentences where they best fit.
- Use the Merriam-Webster dictionary if needed.
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary
- deign
- carping
- precedency
- Critics from both sides are already _ _
 about how the football player's arrogance.
- Jordan's group has set a _ _ for what I arn expecting in behavior.
- The star pitcher would not _ _ speak to the pitcher of the rival team.

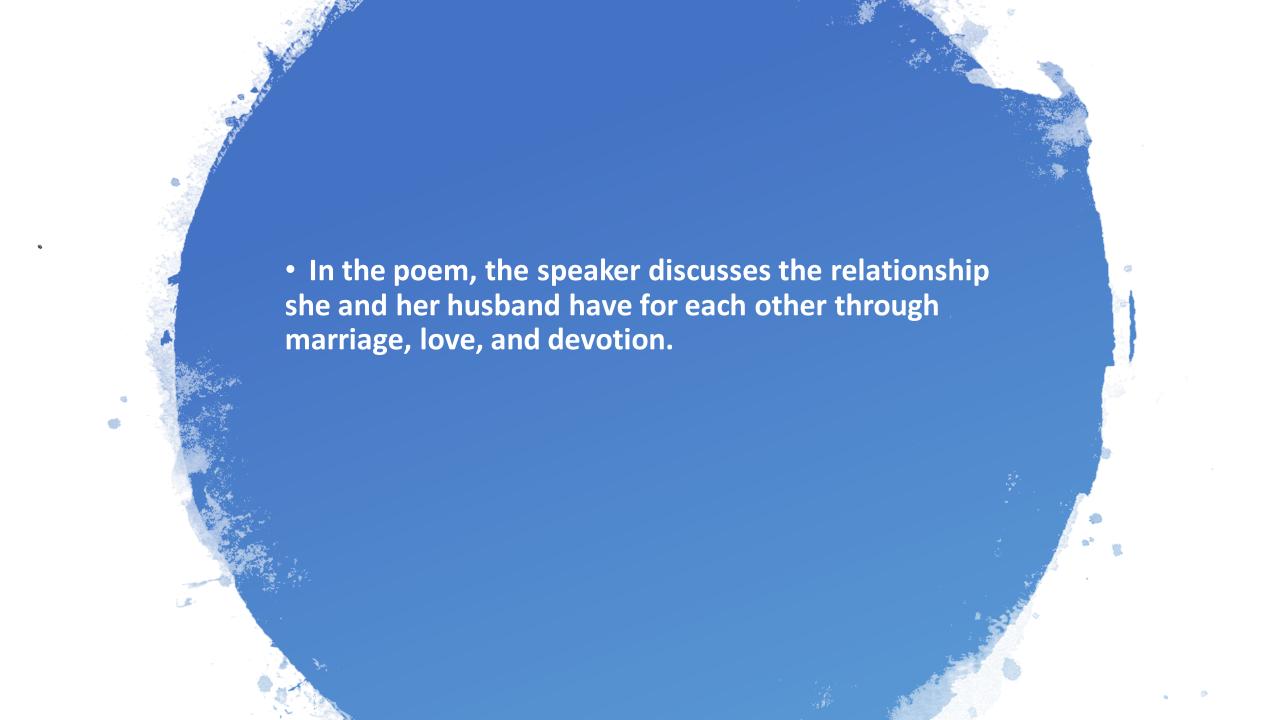
• Answer: carping, precedency, deign

- "To My Dear and Loving Husband" by Anne Bradstreet
- If ever two were one then surely we.
- If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
- If ever wife were happy in a man,
- Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
- 5 I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
- Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
- My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
- Nor aught but love from thee give recompense.
- Thy love is such I can no way repay,
- 10 The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
- Then while we live, in love let's so persevere
- That when we live no more, we may live ever.





• 1.) In one sentence, summarize the poem, "To My Dear and Loving Husband."



- 2.) "To My Dear and Loving Husband" can be best described as a tribute to:
- a) youth
- b) marriage
- c) God
- d) faith



3.) Which of the following lines best restates the last two lines of the poem? a) As long as we live, we'll love each other. b) As long as one of us lives, our love will live. c) Let's love each other so well that we live on

d) If we're very determined, we'll be able to

love each other until we die.

after death.



• Answer: C, "Let's love each other so well that we live on after death.

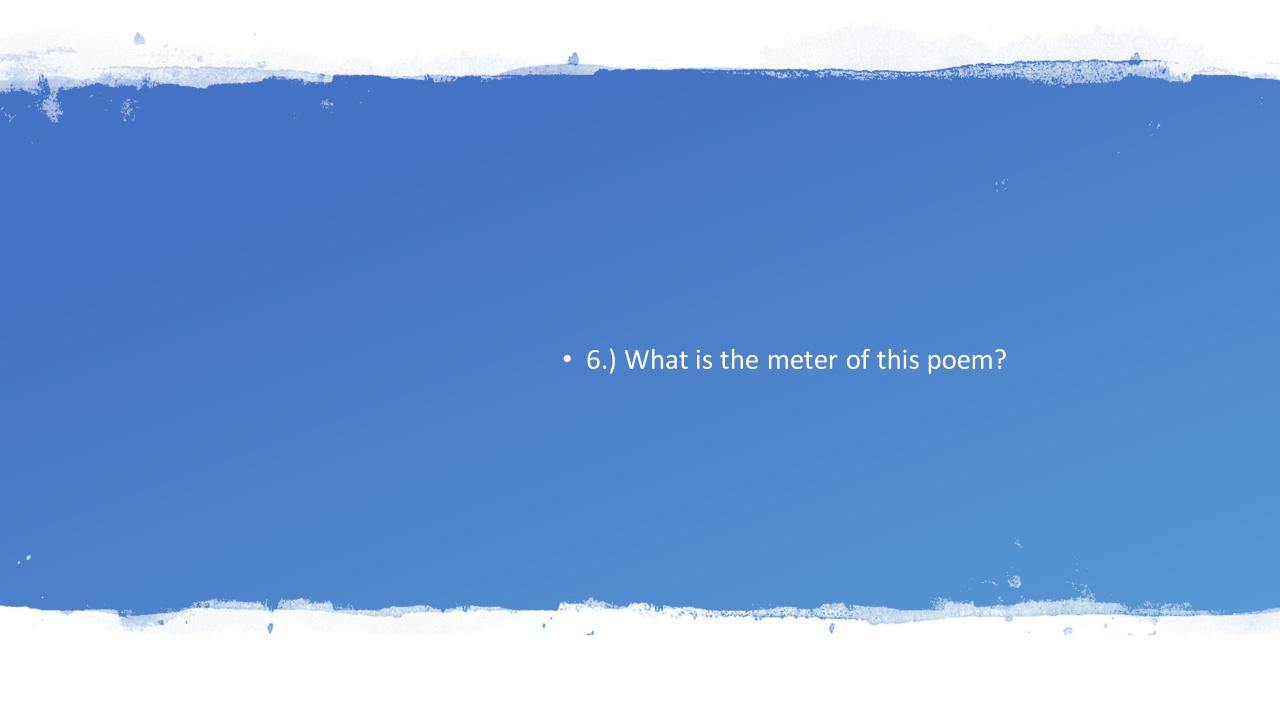
4.) In lines 5-8 of "To My Dear and Loving Husband," the speaker develops the idea that the love in her marriage is: a) moral b) dead c) powerful d) spiritual



- 5.) The speaker of "To My Dear and Loving Husband" feels that her husband's love for her is:
- a) far weaker than her love for him
- b) slightly weaker than her love for him
- c) as powerful as her love for him
- d) far stronger than her love for him



• Answer: C, as powerful as her love for him

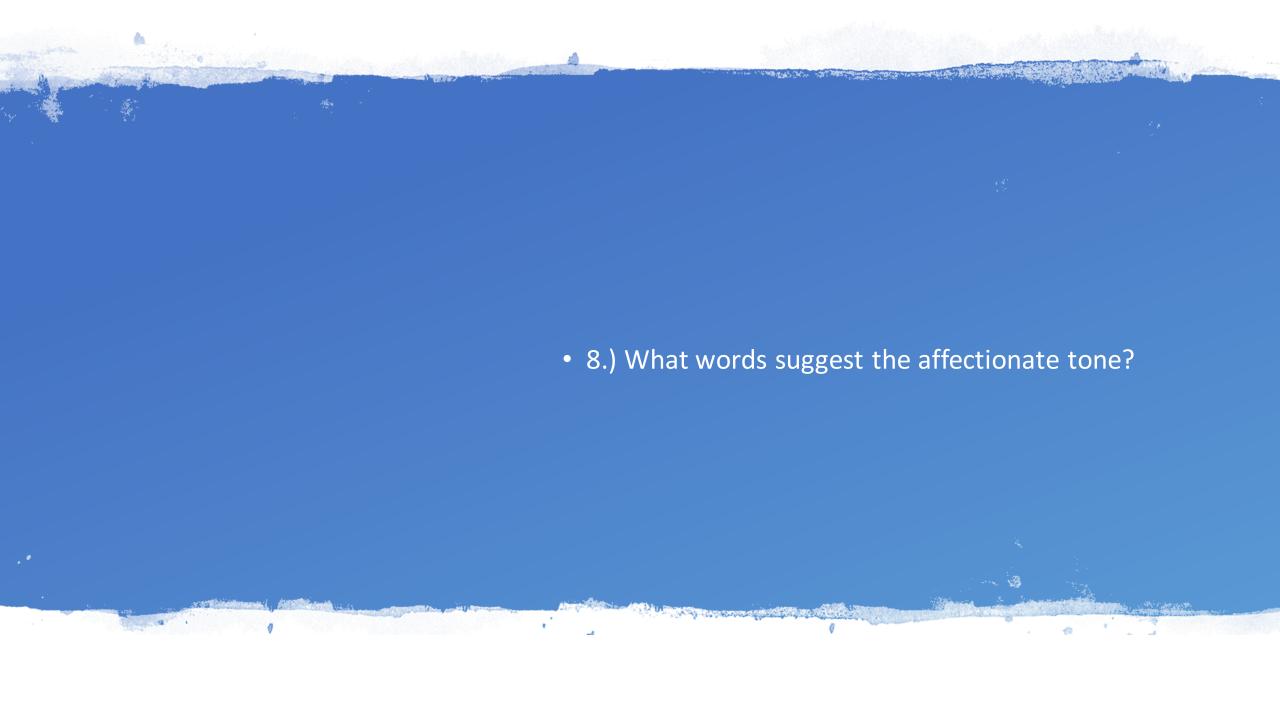




• The poem is written in iambic pentameter. That means there is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. 'If ev/er two/ were one,/ then sure/ly we.'

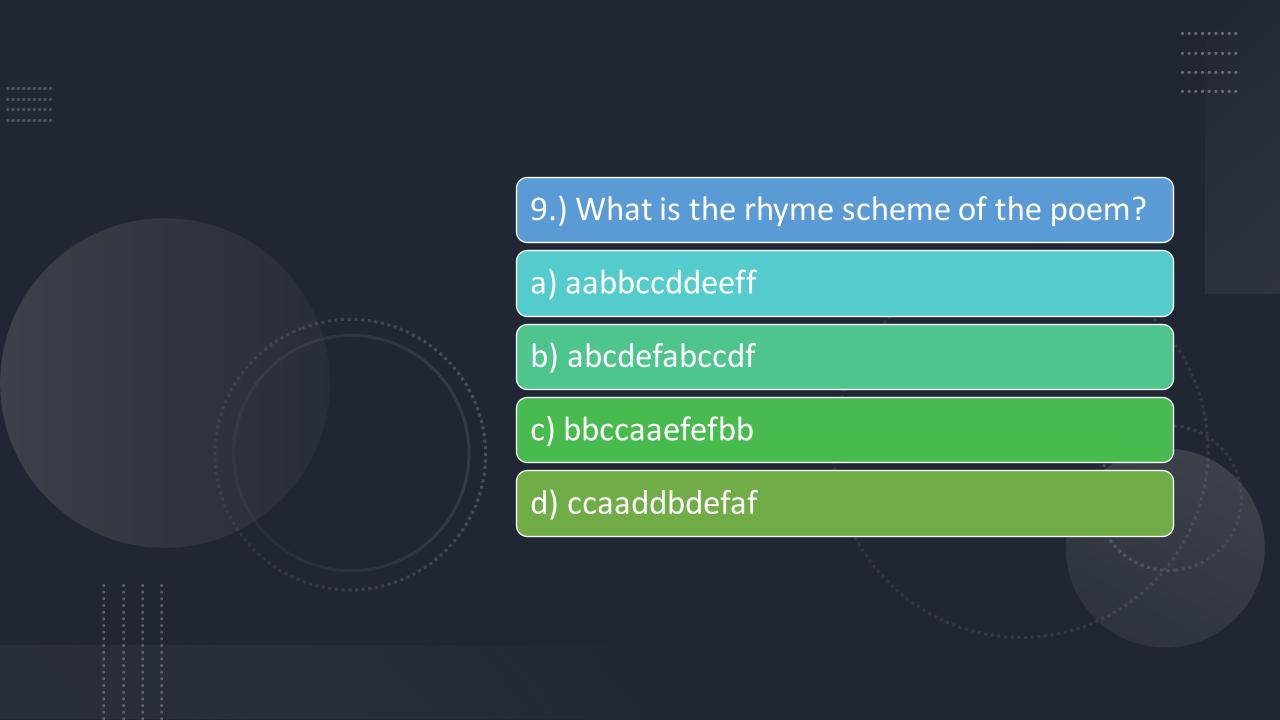
7.) How would you describe the tone of Bradstreet's poem? a) affectionate b) unfriendly c) demanding

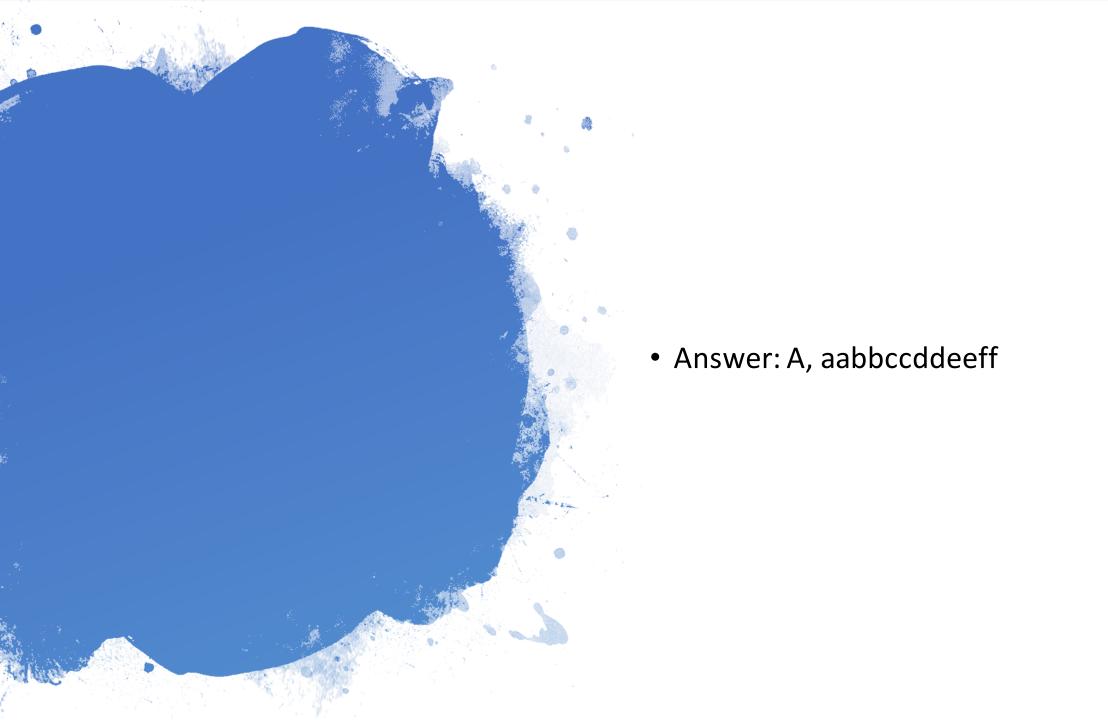


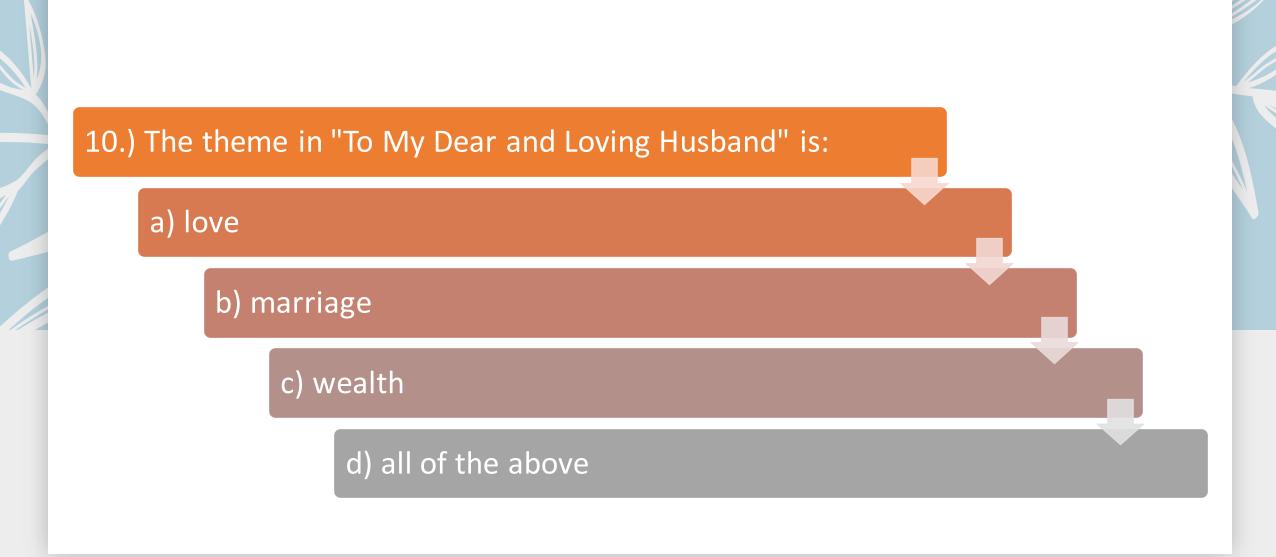


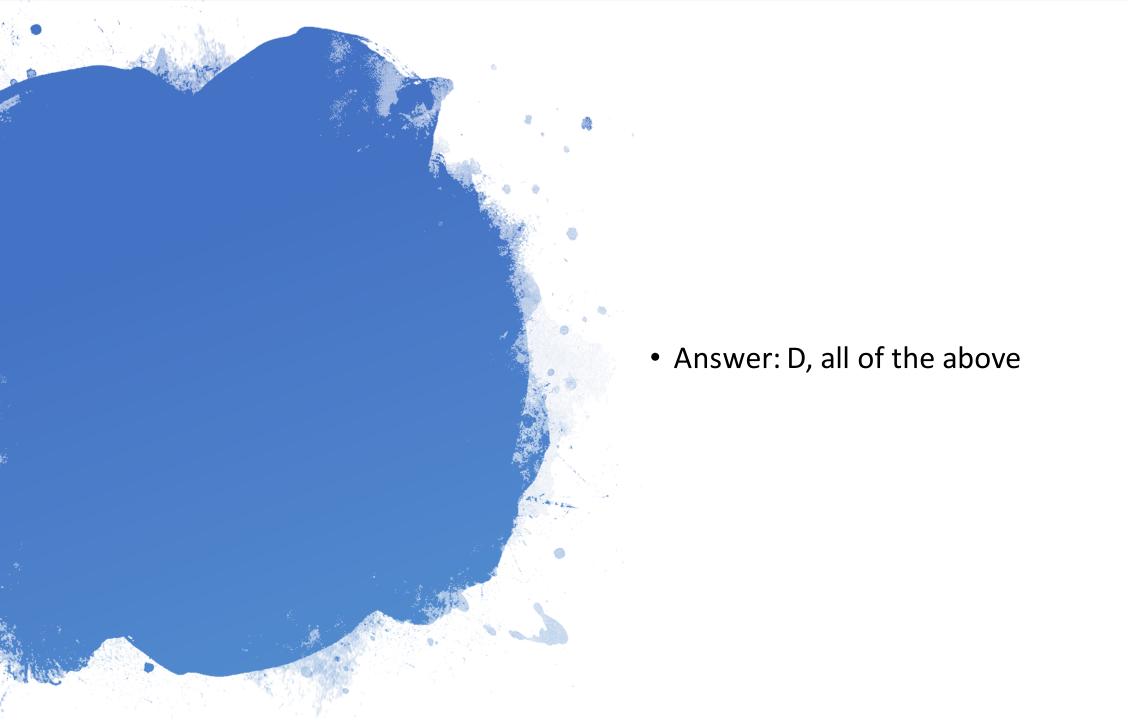


• Several lines can show the affectionate tone, but, 'I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,' signifies that the speaker treasures their love more than anything.







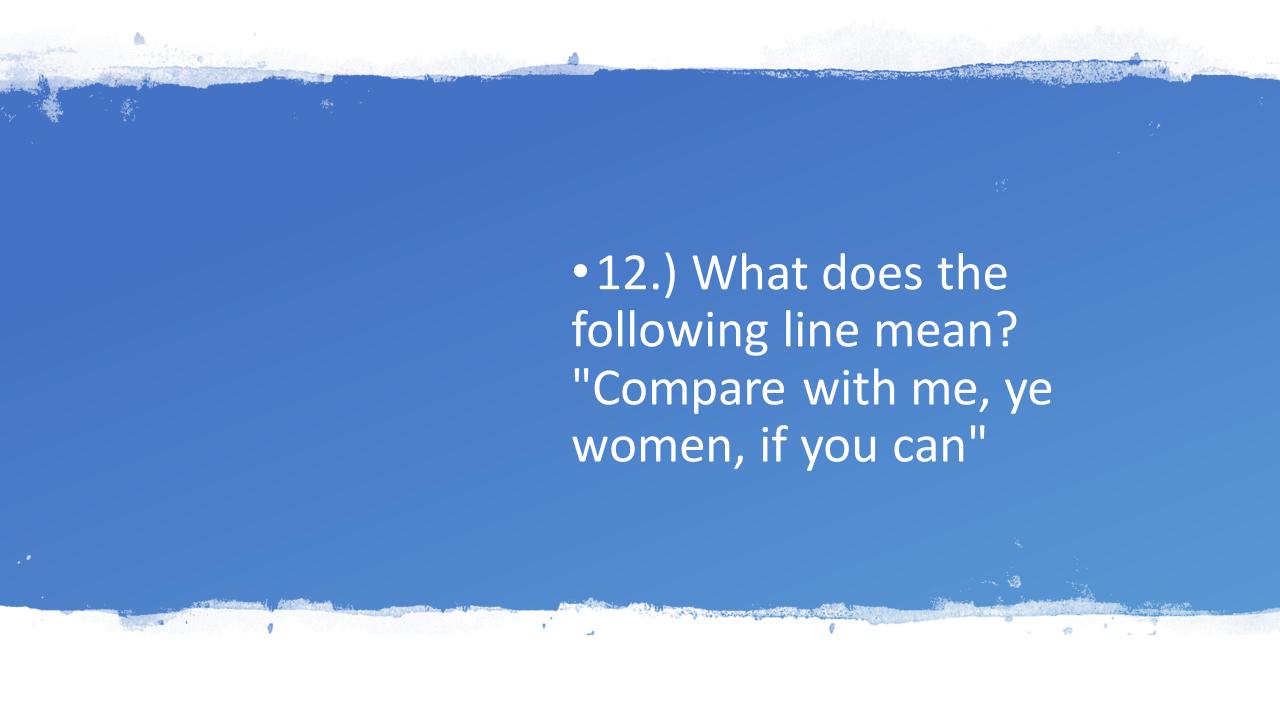


• 11.) What does the repetition of the phrase "If ever" suggest?





• It suggests the passage of time and the speaker's intent of the truth about her claims.





• The speaker challenges other women to try to compare their marital happiness with hers.



Bradstreet's Poetry

- The word prologue means an introduction to a literary work.
- Bradstreet titled one of her poems "Prologue." She used it to mark the beginning of a book of her poetry that she intended to remain unpublished.
- She wanted to make clear to the reader that writing poetry is acceptable for women to do; also, she wanted women to be acknowledged for what they do.
- Read the poem "Prologue."
- "Prologue"

- Do you still think
 Bradstreet's diction is in plain style?
- It may be difficult for you to understand, but the people of the 17th century thought it was written with simple and clear language although they may not have agreed with the themes.

Remember, Puritan women were not supposed to speak their minds or have strong opinions.

If poetry isn't your "thing," that is okay.

Many people can read a poem over and over and never figure out what the author is trying to say. It's not like you can go ask Anne Bradstreet what she means!

Below are some helpful tips for you to try when you are reading poetry.

Form + Content = Meaning
Following this guide will help you
learn how to read and **explicate** a
poem with ease.

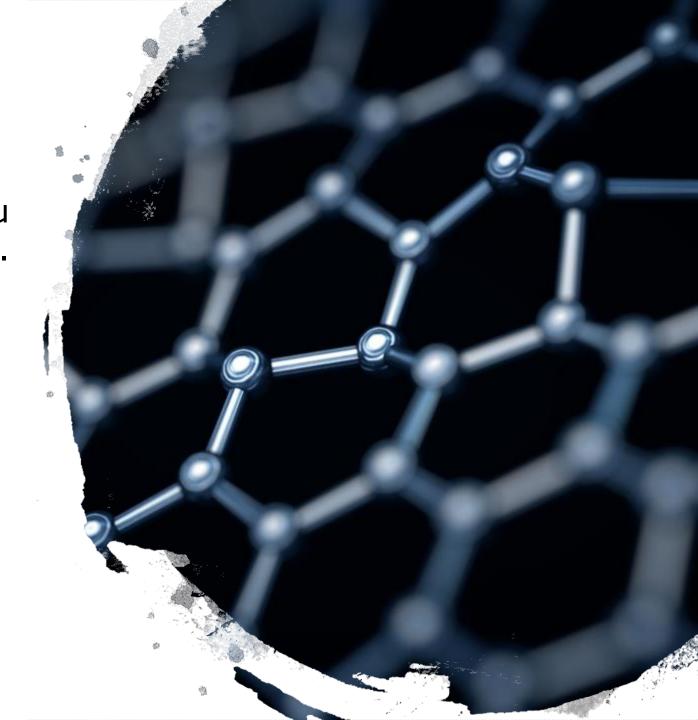


Think about the content of the poem.

Summarizing the entire poem in just a few sentences will enable you to break it down in simplistic terms. Then look at the form of the poem, or how the author chooses to write his or her sentences.

Finally, consider the way these two things work together; then you have the poem's meaning.

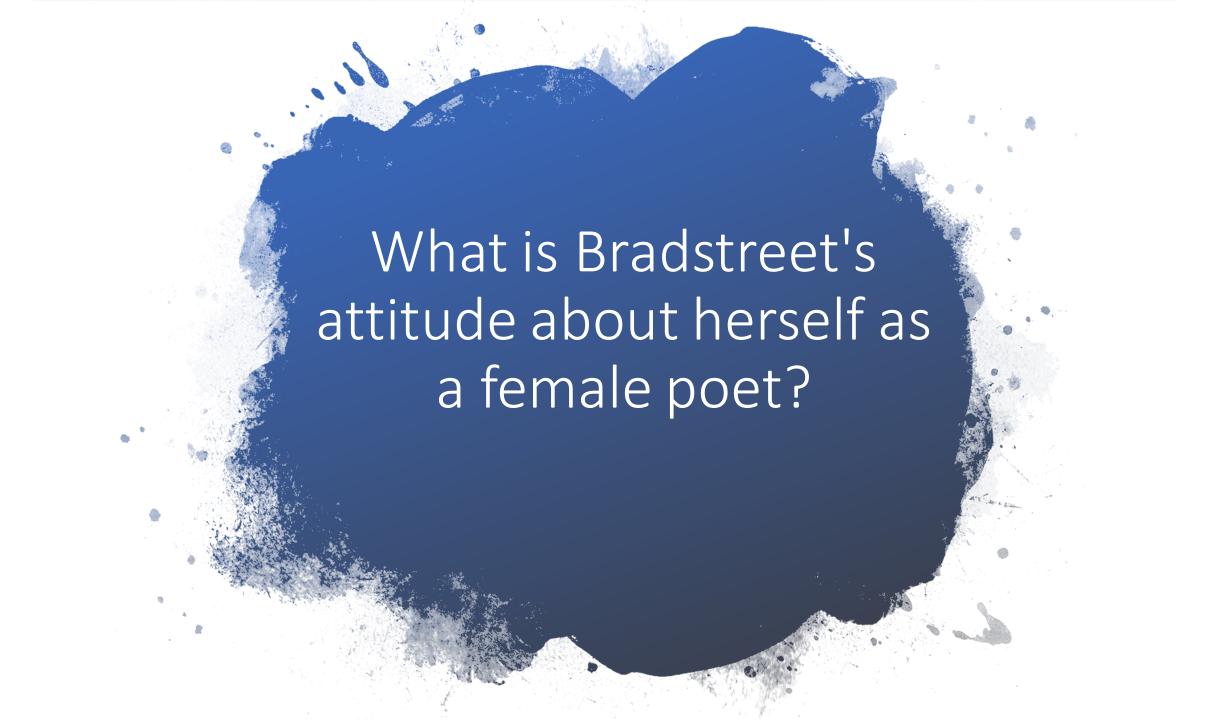
Form + Content = Meaning

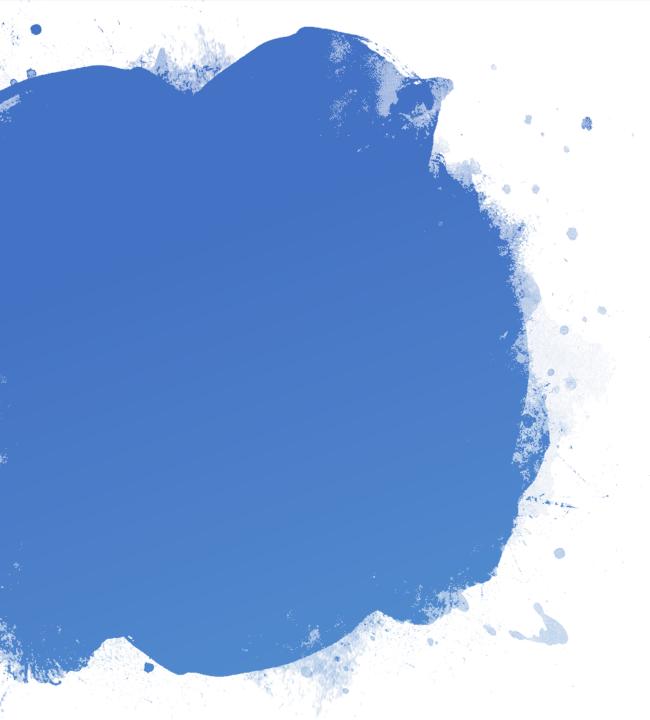


• Summarize the poem "Prologue" in one sentence.



• The 'Prologue' is trying to inform people that women aren't just homemakers; they are just as intelligent as men.





• She begins in the first stanza by demeaning her own writing, 'For my mean pen are too superior things,' like her lowly pen can't write. However, towards the end of the poem, she identifies herself as a strong woman who wants and deserves credit as a writer, 'Preëminence in all and each is yours--Yet grant some small acknowledgement of ours.



Cite textual evidence where Bradstreet devalues herself as a female writer.

• 'For my mean pen are too superior things'; 'My obscure lines'; 'My foolish, broken, blemished Muse so sings'; 'I am obnoxious to each carping tongue Who says my hand a needle better fits.'

• Which words or phrases have the word *flawed* as a connotative meaning?

 'mean pen'; 'obscure'; 'Fool'; 'irreparable'; 'weak or wounded brain'; 'obnoxious'; 'carping tongue'; 'weak knot'; 'The Greeks did nought, but play the fools and lie' • What is the connotation of *obscure*?

• Obscure can mean not well-known; difficult to understand, dark, remote, or not famous. The connotation of the lines suggest her 'unimportant' or 'not famous' writing.

Why do you think she refers to "Great Bartas' sugar'd lines"? • Guillaume du Bartas is a poet whom Bradstreet admired.

• What are the comparisons in the third and fourth stanza?

 She is saying that the audience doesn't expect young students to write well, and she is a woman; thus, the audience doesn't expect her to write well. Then she says that she can't write as well as the 'sweet tongued Greek.' The women are like the Muses because they can influence great art.

 What is the tone of the first four stanzas? • The first four stanzas are somewhat of a mock apology demeaning her incapacity to write because she is a woman.

How does the tone change in the fifth stanza?

• The tone changes to resentment toward the criticism, 'I am obnoxious to each carping tongue/ Who says my hand a needle better fits.' In other words, how dare you say I can't write! But if men think the writing is good, they will say that she stole it from another poet."

• What is the denotation of obnoxious?

• Obnoxious means extremely unpleasant, offensive, very annoying; the archaic definition is exposed to harm or injury.

• What is the argument in stanza six?

 Bradstreet expects Puritans to criticize her because of her gender.

 Bradstreet changes tone again in stanzas 7 and 8. How can you tell?

• The lines, 'It is but vain unjustly to wage war,/ Men can do best, and women know it well, imply that everyone knows the status of men, so why make a big deal of women writing. She continues to state, 'Yet grant some small acknowledgement of ours.' She tells the critics that her talent is unique and all hers. Therefore, she says she has the right to her work and demands credit for it. This is an appeal to authority and an appeal for her credibility.

• What point is the poet making in the last stanza?

• If these great poets ever lower themselves to read her poetry, just acknowledge it. she thinks her work is humble. Her words aren't bay leaves (made as a crown for great poets and athletes) but rather "thyme or parsley" because they are more simple.

 What is a recurrent theme?

• One theme that is seen throughout the poem is that society is flawed by thinking women cannot write.

• Identify the allusions in the poem.

 'Great Bartas' is alluding to Guilliame du Bartas who wrote The Divine Weeks; 'The Muses' are the Greek goddesses of art and inspiration; 'Sweet tongued Greek' is a reference to Demosthenes, a Greek orator who overcame a speech defect by placing pebbles in his mouth and addressing the sea; 'Calliope's own child' is the muse of epic poetry; 'Bays' are laurel leaves used to crown the head of great poets and athletes.

1.04 Bradstreet's Unresolved Conflicts

Directions: Think about the two poems you read in this lesson, "Prologue" and "To My Dear and Loving Husband." Do you see unresolved conflicts between Bradstreet's inner feelings and the doctrines of the Puritans? Identify these conflicts by using textual evidence from each poem.

	the doctrines of the Puritans	Bradstreet's inner feelings
"Prologue"	Men are superior to women.	 2. 3.
"To My Dear and Loving Husband"	Women should repress their personal feelings.	 2.
	Eternal life is predestined.	1.