



Name: _____ Date: _____

Song (“Why so pale and wan”), page 474

Build Background: Cavalier Poetry

“Song” is an example of Cavalier poetry. The Cavalier literary tradition employs lighthearted wit and lyricism to express courtly subjects such as honor, loyalty, and love. Though musical and expressive, the language of Cavalier poetry is direct, rather than loaded with heady conceits. Furthermore, Cavalier poets treated their subjects with significantly less gravity than their contemporaries, the Puritan writers. Their writing reflected an easy, cultured life centered on secular, rather than spiritual, pursuits.

Read the following poem by Sir John Suckling. As you read, pay particular attention to how the poem’s meaning relates to the Cavalier literary tradition. In the chart that follows, describe the use of various literary elements in “I Prithee Send Me Back My Heart” and “Song” (“Why so pale and wan”). Then use the chart to help answer the questions below it.

I Prithee Send Me Back My Heart

by Sir John Suckling

I prithee send me back my heart,
Since I cannot have thine;
For if from yours you will not part,
Why then shouldst thou have mine?

Yet now I think on’t, let it lie,—
To find it were in vain;
For thou’st a thief in either eye
Would steal it back again.

Why should two hearts in one breast lie,
And yet not lodge together?
O love, where is thy sympathy,
If thus our breasts thou sever?

But love is such a mystery,
I cannot find it out;
For when I think I’m best resolved,
I then am most in doubt.

Then farewell care, and farewell woe,—
I will no longer pine;
For I’ll believe I have her heart
As much as she hath mine.

	Song (“Why so pale and wan”)	I Prithee Send Me Back My Heart
Speaker’s tone		
Attitude toward love		
Lyric elements		

Use the chart to help answer the following questions.

1. How do the speakers exhibit similar attitudes toward love?

2. What conclusions can you draw about the poet based on the speakers’ attitudes toward love?

3. How do these poems reflect the Cavalier tradition?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Song (“Why so pale and wan”), page 474

Selection Quiz

Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blank with the word from the box that best completes the sentence.

Cavalier

lyric

repetition

slant

tone

1. Sir John Suckling is considered a _____ poet because he wrote about love and honor and professed loyalty to the monarch.
2. The selection is an example of _____ poetry because it expresses the emotions of the speaker in a musical style.
3. The speaker’s _____ changes from one of concern to one of annoyance.
4. _____ of certain lines in each stanza creates a musical effect.
5. The word pair *do’t* and *mute* provides an example of _____ rhyme.

Multiple Choice

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line.

- _____ 6. The poem, “Song” (“Why so pale and wan”), first appeared in what form?
A. a monologue from *The Goblins* C. an aside from *Aglaura*
B. a song from *The Goblins* D. a song from *Aglaura*
- _____ 7. The poem has three stanzas of which type?
A. quatrain C. sestet
B. quintain D. octave
- _____ 8. Which term describes the number of feet in the second, fourth, and fifth lines of the first and second stanzas?
A. pentameter C. trimeter
B. tetrameter D. dimeter
- _____ 9. Read the line:
“Will, when speaking well can’t win her,”
This line contains an example of which literary device?
A. repetition C. assonance
B. alliteration D. onomatopoeia



Name: _____

Date: _____

To Althea, from Prison / To Lucasta, Going to the Wars, page 477

Build Vocabulary: Words Related to Freedom

“To Althea, from Prison” contains several words related to the concept of freedom. In the four stanzas of the poem, Lovelace uses *unconfined*, *liberty*, *free*, and *freedom*. Many other English words belong to this semantic family. Discover more about the words’ different *connotations*, or shades of meaning, by answering the following questions. Use a dictionary for reference or for checking your answers.

1. What freedoms do you cherish most?

2. How does independence differ from freedom?

3. Why might a society prefer to boast of the liberty its citizens enjoy rather than the license they have?

4. In what way might an emancipated person be free?

5. Write two sentences, one using the word *unconfined* and the other using *unrestrained*. Show how the meanings of these words differ in your examples.

a. _____

b. _____



Name: _____ Date: _____

To Althea, from Prison / To Lucasta, Going to the Wars, page 477

Analyze Literature: Metaphor

Poets delight in using *metaphors*, those figures of speech in which one thing is spoken about as if it were another. Understanding the metaphors that Richard Lovelace uses in these two selections is essential to fully enjoying the poems.

In the chart below, describe the metaphors in the lines of the poems identified in rows 1 and 2. Then find two more metaphors and identify them in rows 3 and 4. Finally, answer the question below the chart.

Poem	Lines	Things Compared
1. "To Althea, from Prison"	5-6	
2. "To Lucasta, Going to the Wars"	2-3	
3. "To Althea, from Prison"		
4. "To Lucasta, Going to the Wars"		

5. Write sentences about love, war, freedom, or imprisonment. Include a metaphor in your sentences.



Name: _____

Date: _____

To Althea, from Prison / To Lucasta, Going to the Wars, page 477

Connecting with Literature: Authors Influenced by Prison

Sir Richard Lovelace was by no means the only author whose work was influenced by prison. The history of literature is full of famous writers—and their relatives—who have been imprisoned. Choose two authors from the list below. Make notes on how prison figured in each person’s work.

Miguel de Cervantes
Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Charles Dickens
Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Daniel Defoe
Wole Soyinka

Alexander Dumas

1. Author: Name and dates: _____

Person who was imprisoned and reason for imprisonment:

Literary work influenced by prison:

Plot of significant work:

2. Author: Name and dates: _____

Person who was imprisoned and reason for imprisonment:

Literary work influenced by prison:

Plot of significant work:



Name: _____ Date: _____

To Althea, from Prison / To Lucasta, Going to the Wars, page 477

Selection Quiz

Part 1: To Althea, from Prison

True or False

Write *T* if the statement is true or *F* if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. The speaker claims that Love's wings are unconfined.
- _____ 2. The speaker refers to a visit his mother makes to prison.
- _____ 3. The speaker claims to be a fine singer, like a committed linnet.
- _____ 4. The speaker argues that love of his king is superior to romantic love.
- _____ 5. The speaker has freedom in his love.
- _____ 6. The speaker's mind cannot be imprisoned.

Part 2: To Lucasta, Going to the Wars

Multiple Choice

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line.

- _____ 7. Who is Lucasta?
 - A. the speaker's muse
 - B. the goddess of love
 - C. the speaker's sister
 - D. the speaker's lover
- _____ 8. Who is the speaker's "new mistress"?
 - A. warfare
 - B. Lucasta
 - C. his horse
 - D. inconstancy
- _____ 9. Which statement *best* sums up the speaker's situation?
 - A. He is writing to his beloved, urging her to leave a convent.
 - B. He is arguing that the war he is going to is just and necessary.
 - C. He is explaining a decision that seems irrational to his beloved.
 - D. He is claiming that men must fight to prove their valor.
- _____ 10. Which word would the speaker use to describe his behavior?
 - A. practical
 - B. unpredictable
 - C. honorable
 - D. sensible