

Name: _____ Class: _____

Metaphysical Poets—George Herbert p. 507



Background

1. What was George Herbert's first job?
2. What did he change to after seven years?
3. With what did he struggle?
4. What did he write?
5. What are the three parts of *The Temple*?

"Easter Wings"

6. Define paradox. What is the paradox in this poem?
7. Define concrete poem. How is this poem a concrete poem?
8. What are the characteristics of the speaker?
9. According to the speaker, what happened to mankind?
10. How did the speaker's tender age begin?
11. What happened to the speaker when the Lord punished him?
12. What does the speaker wish to feel "this day"?
13. What will the fall and affliction do for the speaker?
14. Why is this poem called "Easter Wings"?
15. Is this poem a prayer? Why or why not?
16. Compare Herbert's view of affliction with that expressed by John Donne in "Meditation 17."

Name _____

Date _____

The Altar

A broken Altar, Lord, thy servant rears,
Made of a heart and cemented with tears;
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame:
No workman's tool hath touch'd the same.

A Heart alone
Is such a stone
As nothing but
Thy pow'r doth cut.
Wherefore each part
Of my hard heart
Meets in this frame
To praise thy name;

That if I chance to hold my peace,
These stones to praise thee may not cease.
O Let thy blessed S A C R I F I C E be mine,
And sanctify this A L T A R to be thine.

—George Herbert

1. How do the poem's meaning and shape reflect each other?

2. What conceit dominates the poem?