

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

**Here Follow Some Verses upon the Burning
of our House, July 10, 1666 - Anne Bradstreet**

In silent night when rest I took
For sorrow near I did not look
I wakened was with thund'ring noise
And piteous shrieks of dreadful voice.
That fearful sound of "Fire!" and "Fire!"
Let no man know is my desire.
I, starting up, the light did spy,
And to my God my heart did cry
To strengthen me in my distress
And not to leave me succorless¹.
Then, coming out, beheld a space
The flame consume my dwelling place.

And when I could no longer look,
I blest His name that gave and took,
That laid my goods now in the dust.
Yea, so it was, and so 'twas just.
It was His own, it was not mine,
Far be it that I should repine².

He might of all justly bereft³
But yet sufficient for us left.
When by the ruins oft I past
My sorrowing eyes aside did cast,
And here and there the places spy
Where oft I sat and long did lie:

Here stood that trunk, and there that chest,
There lay that store I counted best.
My pleasant things in ashes lie,
And them behold no more shall I.
Under thy roof no guest shall sit,
Nor at thy table eat a bit.

No pleasant tale shall e'er be told,
Nor things recounted done of old.
No candle e'er shall shine in thee,
Nor bridegroom's voice e'er heard shall be.
In silence ever shall thou lie,
Adieu⁴, Adieu, all's vanity.

Then straight I 'gin my heart to chide,
And did thy wealth on earth abide?
Didst fix thy hope on mold'ring dust?
The arm of flesh didst make thy trust?
Raise up thy thoughts above the sky
That dunghill mists away may fly.

Thou hast an house on high erect,
Framed by that mighty Architect,
With glory richly furnished,
Stands permanent though this be fled.
It's purchased and paid for too
By Him who hath enough to do.

A price so vast as is unknown
Yet by His gift is made thine own;
There's wealth enough, I need no more,
Farewell, my pelf, farewell my store.
The world no longer let me love,
My hope and treasure lies above.

1. In her poem, Bradstreet mostly criticizes herself for

- Losing her faith in God's goodness
- Failing to react quickly in an emergency
- Not taking the proper precautions against fire hazards
- Valuing material possessions too much

2. Bradstreet emphasizes both the things she has lost and

- The people who escaped the fire
- The new home that neighbors are building for her
- Her memories of happy occasions in the house
- Items she has rescued from the flames

3. When Bradstreet writes "I blest His name that gave and took....," she implies that

- She is being punished for the sin of vanity
- Material objects are ultimately God's and not hers
- She secretly wants all her possessions to vanish
- God will be appeased if she says prayer to him

4. How does Bradstreet's poem capture the essence of Puritanical writing?

- It is boring
- It is a history, written in the plain style
- It shows that God punishes the wicked
- Shows the workings of God in everyday life



¹ Succorless. Adj. Without aid in time of distress

² Repine. V. To express discontent

³ Bereft. Adj. Deprived of or missing something

⁴ Adieu Int. *Fr.* Good bye

Huswifery – Edward Taylor

Make me, O Lord, thy Spinning Wheel complete.
Thy Holy Worde my Distaff⁵ make for me.
Make mine Affections thy Swift Flyers⁶ neat
And make my Soul thy holy Spool to be.
My Conversation make to be thy Reel
And reel the yarn thereon spun of thy Wheel.

Make me thy Loom then, knit therein this Twine:
And make thy Holy Spirit, Lord, wind quills:
Then weave the Web thyself. The yarn is fine.
Thine Ordinances make my Fulling Mills⁷.
Then dye the same in Heavenly Colors Choice,
All pinked with Varnish Flowers of Paradise.

Then clothe therewith mine Understanding, Will,
Affections, Judgment, Conscience, Memory
My Words, and Actions, that their shine may fill
My ways with glory and thee glorify.
Then mine apparel shall display before ye
That I am Clothed in Holy robes for glory.



- 1. The speaker in “Huswifery” seems to imagine himself as**
 - a. An instrument that God can shape
 - b. A person who has no goals or desires in life
 - c. A wagon wheel endlessly turning in place
 - d. A favorite child who deserves special treatment
- 2. Which phrase *best* illustrates the speaker’s wish in “Huswifery”?**
 - a. All the speaker’s words and actions reflect God’s purpose
 - b. God relieves the speaker of his or her boring day-to-day tasks
 - c. The speaker learns how to prosper from making cloth
 - d. The speaker proves his or her faith by mastering a difficult craft
- 3. In “Huswifery,” the speaker compares God to a**
 - a. A homemaker making skeins of yarn
 - b. Teacher instructing a weaver
 - c. Judge weighing evidence
 - d. Person building a spinning wheel
- 4. The conceit of Taylor’s poem is his comparison of**
 - a. The speaker to a spinning wheel
 - b. God to a spinning wheel
 - c. The speaker to God
 - d. The speaker to a weaver

How does the author of each poem use extended metaphors to express their religious beliefs? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

⁵ Distaff. N. A staff on which wool is wound for spinning

⁶ Swift Flyers. N. Pl. Part of a loom: twists yarn before winding it onto the spindle

⁷ Fulling Mills. N. Pl. A mill for processing cloth with fuller’s earth to soften fabric