



Phillis Wheatley

You will use information from a university Web site to answer questions about the life and works of Phillis Wheatley. The Web address of the page you will be working with is long and involved

<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/wheatley.htm>. Type in the web address exactly as shown. This will take you to the Phillis Wheatley page. Click on [Wheatley's "To S. M." and "Upon Being Brought"](#). This will take you to the text and questions on the two poems.

WRITE THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

"Upon Being Brought"

After a first reading of the poem:

1. What is your first reaction to the poem? Do you like it? Dislike it? Why?
2. Describe what you think the main idea of the poem is.
3. Which lines seem significant? Why do you think this? Do any particular lines stand out to you?
4. Is there a line or group of lines that seems confusing? Which lines?
5. List the words in the poem that you don't understand.
6. What questions do you have about the poem?

Read the poem again. Think about the poem and the questions that you had. Were any of the questions answered for you during your second reading of the poem?

Analysis of the poem:

You will be answering some of the questions in the "Notes and Questions" column.

1. Why does she use the word brought in the first line? Look at the questions for line one in the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
2. Click on the words "benighted soul" in line 2 of the poem. Read the questions that appear at the top of the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
3. Scroll down in the "Notes and Questions" column to the information for **Once**. What is significant about the word "once?" How does the information about the word impact the meaning of the poem?
4. Scroll to the notes and questions for the word **Sable**. Consider the information and answer the questions on your own paper.
5. Scroll to the notes and questions for the word **Remember**. Consider the information and answer the questions on your own paper.
6. Click on the word Cain in line 7 of the poem. What is the significance of the story of Cain? How does this impact the meaning of the poem?
7. What does the word "refined" mean? How does knowing how many different ways the word can be used impact the poem?

"To S.M., a Young African Painter on Seeing His Works"

1. Click on "To S.M., a Young African Painter on Seeing His Works" and read the poem.
2. What is your first impression of the poem? Do you like it? Dislike it? Why?
3. Describe what you think the main idea of the poem is.
4. Which lines seem significant? Why do you think this? Do any particular lines stand out to you?
5. Is there a line or group of lines that seems confusing? Which lines?
6. List the words in the poem that you don't understand.
7. What questions do you have about the poem?
8. What do you think the main idea of the poem is? Why? Read the poem again.

Analysis of the poem:

You will be answering some of the questions in the "Notes and Questions" column.

1. Who is S.M.?
2. Why does she use the word **How** in the fifth line? Look at the questions this word in the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
3. Click on the word "still" in line 7 of the poem. Read the questions that appear at the top of the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
4. Scroll down in the "Notes and Questions" column to the information for **deathless glories**. Answer the questions in the column on your own paper.
5. Scroll to the notes and questions for the word **seraphic theme**. Consider the information and determine what you think she means.
6. Scroll to the notes and questions for the words **elate** and **Salem**. Consider the information and think about what impact these words have on the poem.
7. Click on the words **Calm and serene** in first line of the second stanza of the poem. Consider the information and answer the questions.
8. Click on the words **shades of time**. Read the questions that appear at the top of the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
9. Click on the words **On what seraphic pinions...realms above**. Consider the information provided. Read the questions that appear at the top of the "Notes and Questions" column. Answer the questions on your own paper.
10. Who is Damon? What does his story add to the poem?
11. Scroll down in the "Notes and Questions" column to the information for **rising radiance**. Consider the information. Answer the questions in the column on your own paper.
12. Scroll to the notes and questions for the words **gentle muse**. Consider the information and determine what you think she means.
13. Scroll to the notes and questions for the words **fair creation**. Consider the information and determine what you think she means.