

***Carpe Diem*—Seize the Day**

Reading Questions:

Choose two of the poems below, and answer the questions in the box for each poem.

Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins to Make Much of Time,” p. 847;

Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress,” p. 936;

Edmund Waller, “Go, Lovely Rose,” p. 1246;

Philip Larkin, “Next Please”

(online at: <http://www.utdallas.edu/~jenelow/next.html>

Or at <http://www.mrbauld.com/larkpms2.html>);

A. E. Housman, “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now”

(online at: <http://www.web-books.com/classics/poetry/anthology/Housman/Loveliest.htm>

- ◆ Who is the speaker in the poem?
- ◆ What does the word choice suggest might be characteristics of the speaker?
- ◆ Identify and list metaphors and similes used in the poem.
- ◆ List imagery that you see in the poem (things that appeal to our senses, that you can taste, touch, see, feel, hear).
- ◆ What word choices give the poem a tone (of voice—happy, sad, melancholy, ironic, advising, avuncular, etc.)? What is the tone of the poem?
- ◆ What point does the poem make about time, life, or love?

2. Comparative writing

In one to three paragraphs, compare the two poems you have chosen above. You might compare the kinds of images that the writers use to convey their ideas, or the symbols in the poem, or the theme, or the speakers of the poems. In what ways are the poems different? In what ways are they similar?