

# A to a visual experience. donne's imagery

[Business](#), [Career](#)



A very recognized poet, John Donne, is mostly known for his remarkable use of literary elements to allow his audience not only to enjoy reading his poems but also to introduce them into ideas and spiritual messages.

In his poems "Holy Sonnet 14", "Valediction Forbidding Mourning", and "The Flea", Donne applies a diverse set of literary elements. Donne uses biblical allusions, imagery, and metaphysical conceits in these poems to evoke the audience's attention and influence and validate his beliefs and opinions for others to foresee. In Donne's poems "Holy Sonnet 14" and "The Flea", he displays biblical allusions to establish a strong relationship with the audience. Most of the time, writers include biblical allusions to persuade and convince their audience that their message should be valued and credible because most readers during his time had a religious faithful connection. The praying speaker invites God to "batter" his heart (line 1).

This may seem like a fortuitous desire, but the speaker acknowledges that to be created "new" God needs to "break, blow, burn" him, a reference to Malachi 3: 2-3, where God is a refiner of metals, in control of the fire that outlines the lives of disciples. In addition to having obvious biblical allusions in "Holy Sonnet 14", Donne writes a compelling poem, "The Flea", that involves biblical allusions as well: "And in this flea our two bloods mingled be" (Line 4). The speaker infers that the flea has literally made their two fleshs into one, comparing it to marriage where "a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be cleaved unto his wife and they shall be one flesh" references to Genesis 2: 24. The speaker's motives are clear as he is trying to persuade his lady that giving up her virginity would have no humiliation under the holy prosperity given by the flea. These two poems have allusions

that connect the audience on a spiritual level. Also, in Donne's poems "Valediction Forbidding Mourning" and "Holy Sonnet 14" use imagery to take advantage of the readers' senses and create and develop a strong imagination theme of his works. Commonly, imagery is applied to grasp the reader's attention to a visual experience. Donne's imagery reveals his capability of intellectual character.

In "Holy Sonnet 14", Donne writes "Divorce me, untie or break that knot again, Take me to you, imprison me" (Lines 11 & 12) to infer that he is trapped into a marriage with God's enemy. He begs God to imprison him because he declares that that is the only way he can truly be free until God pursues him. This imagery allows the reader to comprehend that the speaker is longing for liberty, and creates sympathy for the speaker. In Donne's "Valediction Forbidding Mourning", he applies imagery to display his tone of compassion and comfort while reassuring his beloved not to worry about their time apart. The speaker says that he doesn't want to part ways with "tear-floods" and "sigh-tempests" which will only make his departure more depressing. This use of imagery is still trying to refer to use of nature that Donne begins the poem with, however, these exaggerations give the audience an image of a storm occurring as the couple parts ways. Donne's imagery tells his readers how meaningful his poems are and gives a dramatic tone that ultimately keeps the audience's attention.

Biblical allusions and imagery are not the only devices that Donne uses in his poems to grasp the readers' attention. He also uses conceits to make a complex understanding of an object while creating a deeper meaning of the

theme. In "Valediction Forbidding Mourning", the author creates a comparison of his love to a compass. Donne justifies that his wife is like the midpoint, "fixed" foot of the compass that remains entrenched while the other flies away. It stays right there, maintaining balance and confidence in the circle. In addition, "it leans" after the other foot. (27 & 32) In Donne's poem "The Flea", he uses a conceit between a household flea and the hardships of young romance to expand the speaker's argument for a young woman to give up her virginity.

, "And in this flea, our two bloods mingled be;" the flea is representative of the two having intercourse and the blood being merged (line 4). Donne tries to pursue his audience's attention by making an uncomfortable and memorable visualization. Most of the time a flea is seen as dirty and filthy, which is very random to suggest sexuality with a bug that is connected with disease and contamination. To add a passionate attitude Donne uses conceits in relation to infatuation in his poems through the aspects of imagery.

Donne's use of precise literary elements sets him above other well-known poets. His intellectual writing and metaphysical poetry secure a supportive audience throughout and after his entire career. Donne stresses the significance of companionship, religious connections, and his yearning for love through the use of different devices. Donne uses literary elements such as metaphysical conceits, imagery, and biblical allusions to create elements of astonishment and curiosity. He develops a profound understanding of Donne's emotions that are conveyed throughout his poetry. A deep

connectionwith his audience is then established that allows the reader's attention to begrasped.