

Questions on To His Coy Mistress by Andrew Marvell:

1. What are the important moments in this poem where the argument shifts, or moves to a new subject ?
2. What rhetorical tropes does the speaker of “To His Coy Mistress” employ?
3. Is the speaker a good rhetorician? Is he persuasive, or possibly not persuasive?
4. If “To His Coy Mistress” also implies a critique of the speaker’s argument; where is this most apparent? What images are most surprising and poorly fitted to the speaker’s argument?
5. How does “To His Coy Mistress” compare to John Donne’s “The Flea”? How similar are the speakers in each poem? How similar are their arguments?