

# “The Flea” Comprehension Questions

1. Recall what you know of the Black Plague. Does this poem embrace or reject that picture of the flea as a disease-carrying insect? Why do you think so?
2. Describe the simple plot of the poem in terms of who got bitten by a flea and what the speaker entreats in stanza two.
3. The speaker uses the flea to construct an argument. What does this speaker want?
4. What, then, is the conceit employed by Donne?
5. In stanza three, the speaker equates the insignificance of the flea to the woman to what?
6. Do you find this conceit poem humorous, blasphemous, or both?