To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time

Robert Herrick

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,

Old Time is still a-flying;

And this same flower that smiles today

Tomorrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,

The higher he's a-getting,

The sooner will his race be run,

And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,

When youth and blood are warmer;

But being spent, the worse, and worst

Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,

And while ye may, go marry;

For having lost but once your prime,

You may forever **tarry**.

Name

Directions:

1. Read poem.

 Define words in bold. Underline questionable usages. Resolve.

 Rewrite each line to state the meaning simply.

4. Label the rhyme scheme.

5. Answer questions on the back.

1. Which images capture the *carpe diem* theme of the Cavaliers?

2. What advice does the spearker give women in the first four lines?

a. What does that advice mean?

3. How do the images he uses convey the idea of passing time?

4. What does the poem suggest about passing time?

5. How does the last stanza answer these concerns?

6. What response could an opponent offer Herrick?