

Christopher Marlowe

The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That Valleys, groves, hills, and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the Rocks,
Seeing the Shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow Rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing Madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of Roses
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of Myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty Lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and Ivy buds,
With Coral clasps and Amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me, and be my love.

The Shepherds' Swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my love.

Reading

Students should read the poem in class to know the meaning of the poem. Through this reading they can be able to know the general themes, structure and form are manipulated so as to find the accurate meaning of the poem.

Themes

Pastoralism and picture of idyllic nature
Lover and Romance

Structure

Heroic Couplets. Couplets are two consecutive lines of poetry with the same end-rhyme. Traditionally, the couplet was a two-line stanza expressing a self-contained thought, but the form has evolved. Marlowe uses a simple rhyme scheme of couplets.

Form and Devices

the poet uses language and devices such as metaphor, allusion, and even alliteration to create meaning and texture.

Discussion

Class discussion and essay writing