

TO HIS COY MISTRESS /TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME /
TO ALTHEA, FROM PRISON

COPY MASTER

Reading Skill

INTERPRET FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

While reading poetry, you will often need to interpret **figurative language**, or language that communicates ideas beyond the literal meanings of the words. The following types of figurative language are common in Cavalier poetry which is known for its musical, lighthearted verse.

- **metaphor:** a comparison of two unlike things
- **simile:** a comparison that uses the word *like* or *as*
- **hyperbole:** an exaggeration used for emphasis or humorous effect

Directions: As you read the poems, list examples of hyperbole, metaphor, and simile. Then record your interpretations of their meanings. An example has been done for you.

Poem	Figurative Language	Interpretation
"To His Coy Mistress"	Hyperbole: "My vegetable love should grow/Vaster than empires and more slow"	The speaker's love will not dissipate in the future but will continue to grow.

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