

A VALEDICTION: FORBIDDING MOURNING / HOLY SONNET 10 / *from*
MEDITATION 17

COPY MASTER

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 523 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer the questions.

- 4. Analyze Simile** Reread lines 21–24 of “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning.” Then complete the following sentence.

The speaker’s marriage is like gold that is beaten thin because _____

- 5. Interpret Ideas** A paradox is a statement that seems to contradict what you already know about something. Think about the paradox in “Holy Sonnet 10.” The speaker says that death cannot kill him. What does he mean?

- 6. Interpret Metaphysical Conceits** A *metaphysical conceit* is a strong metaphor. Reread the following lines. Explain what is being compared and why.

“Meditation 17,” lines 8–13: _____

“Meditation 17,” lines 19–24: _____

- 7. Draw Conclusions** Both poems talk about death. What do you think John Donne believes about death?

- 8. Compare Texts** Donne writes about love in “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning.” Shakespeare writes about love in “Sonnet 116.” Do the speakers agree or disagree about love? Explain your answer.
