

Reading Skill

INTERPRET IDEAS

A **paradox** is a statement that seems to contradict itself but reveals some element of truth. To understand what the author is trying to convey, you must **interpret**, or explain the meaning of, the paradox.

Directions: As you read the selections, use the chart to record the paradoxes and your interpretations. Use the footnotes and surrounding words and phrases to help you explain the meaning of each paradox. An example has been done for you.

Selection	Paradox	Interpretation
"A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"	"Our two souls therefore, which are one,/Though I must go, endure not yet/A breach, but an expansion"	Two people so closely connected cannot be separated when apart, only expanded.