

Study guide for quiz on “Upon the burning of her house”

You should know the following terms and how to find and explain them in the poem.

1. **Shift (rhetorical shift)**

A shift is a dramatic change in tone or subject in a text. Look at the poem and find the line where there is a shift in the poem.

Example: In “To My Dear and Loving Husband” the poem makes a shift in line 9 where Anne shifts from talking about her love of her husband to that of her husband’s love for her.

2. **Apostrophe**

Apostrophe is a form of personification in which the absent or dead or inanimate are spoken of as if present. These are all addressed directly.

Example: In Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar: “O judgment, thou art fled to brutish beast, and men have lost their reason!” Caesar is speaking to or addressing judgment.

3. **Rhetorical questions**

A rhetorical question is a question that neither requires nor expects an answer.

Example: How many times have I told you to shut the refrigerator door?

4. **Allusions**

An allusion is an indirect reference to a person, place, event, or literary work.

- Also know how to write a **theme** for this poem and an overall **tone** for it