

NAME: _____

Alexander Pope responses

Heroic Couplets (pp. 522-523)-- READ and DISCUSS all the couplets first, please.

In analytical response...

Try paraphrasing, or expressing in your own words, the idea expressed in two of the couplets.

Couplet # _____

Couplet # _____

List a few examples of **antithesis** (a contrast of ideas expressed in a grammatically balanced statement) that are used by Pope in a couple of couplets. (more info. about [antithesis linked here](#))

Couplet # _____

Couplet # _____

Explain how any 2 couplets particularly connect with life today-- your own life, or life in politics, education, the arts, media, etc.

Couplet # _____

Couplet # _____

Read about "Wit" on pp. 533-534. Find one example that illustrates wit in the sense of "cleverness," and one example that illustrates wit in the sense of "expressing a deeper truth about human nature." Explain your choices.

Couplet # _____

Couplet # _____

Check out Francis Bacon's "axioms" on p. 407. Look for elements of **wit** and the use of **antithesis** and **parallelism** (see p. 405 for def.). Respond to a few of the ideas set forth by Bacon. Explain how 2 of the axioms particularly connect with life today-- your own life, or life in politics, education, the arts, media, etc.

Axiom

Axiom

How do Bacon's ideas expressed in these axioms compare to some of the ideas set forth in the couplets by Pope? Describe the comparison using specific references to their quotes.

"An Essay on Man" (p. 524)

Try paraphrasing lines 5-6 and lines 15-16, examining how Pope uses antithesis* in these lines.

**antithesis= a figure of speech in which an opposition or contrast of ideas is expressed by parallelism of words that are the opposites of, or strongly contrasted with, each other, such as "hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins".*

Paraphrase of lines 5-6:

Paraphrase of lines 15-16:

In almost every section of this passage, Pope says something flattering about the human race, only to follow it with something insulting.

According to Pope, what are some of our greatest triumphs, as a human race?

According to Pope, what are some of our greatest downfalls, as a human race?

In the end, do you believe the poem is hopeful or negative in its considerations about humanity? Why?

This poem is arranged in a series of couplets which build upon one another, expanding Pope's paradoxical (contrary, opposite opinions that seem to collide, yet both hold true) view of humanity.

Which couplet do you think is the most interesting and true to your own view of humanity?