

Name _____ British Literature II

Poetry Worksheet The Good Morrow John Donne

Snorted – snored

Seven Sleepers – in both Christian and Islamic mythology (with some variants), a group of Christian children who, in a time of persecution of Christians in the 3rd Century B.C. under the Emperor Decius, hid in a cave and miraculously awoke about 300 years later when Christianity ruled this area (usually said to be near Ephesus on the Turkish/Ionian coast) under the Eastern Empire.

Who (or what type of person) is the poet addressing in this poem? What's your evidence? About what is the speaker musing at the beginning?

What is the speaker saying about this earlier period?

In the key middle stanza, what is Donne saying about the effects of love (that we see often in his poems)?

What is Donne saying at the beginning of the third stanza? What are the two better hemispheres to which he is referring? What, therefore, should be the point of one's life?

What is the final conclusion about love in this poem? What would Shakespeare say about this?