

Anne Bradstreet

1612-1672

Anne Bradstreet was born in Northampton, England, in the year 1612.

Anne and her family immigrated to America in 1630 on the Arabella, one of the first ships to bring Puritans to New England in hopes of setting up plantation colonies. The journey was difficult; many perished during the three-month journey, unable to cope with the harsh climate and poor living conditions.

The colonists' fight for survival had become daily routine, and the climate, lack of food, and primitive living arrangements made it very difficult for Anne to adapt.

Anne Bradstreet was especially fond of poetry, which she had begun to write herself; her works were kept private. She wrote for herself, her family, and close circle of educated friends, and did not intend on publication. However, Anne's work would not remain unnoticed. Her brother-in-law, John Woodbridge, had secretly copied Anne's work, and would later bring it to England to have it published in 1650 under the title of "Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America, By a Gentlewoman of Those Parts". The book did fairly well in England, and was to be the last of her poetry to be published during her lifetime. All her other poems were published posthumously.

She passed away on September 16, 1672, in Andover, Massachusetts, at the age 60.

Quotes:

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant;

If we did not sometimes taste the adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome

"If ever two were one, then surely we.

If ever man were loved by wife, then thee."

"If what I do prove well, it won't advance.

They'll say it's stolen, or else it was by chance. "

"Authority without wisdom is like a heavy axe without an edge,
fitter to bruise than polish."

Answer the questions

1. Where was Anne Bradstreet born and how did she get to the New World?
2. What difficulties did the immigrants face?
3. What purpose did Anne Bradstreet set by her writings?
4. How did she become famous?

Michael Wigglesworth [1631-1705]

Michael Wigglesworth was born in England and came to America at the age of seven. He lived in New Haven until he went to Harvard; he graduated in 1651 and remained there as a tutor for three years. A small man, he was extremely frail and weak until 1686 when, apparently, he attained an Indian summer of health. Because of his physical condition he went to Bermuda for seven months in 1663; there he began to study medicine, which had always interested him. Eventually he became a physician of the body as well as of the soul. He took to writing and the most famous result of his efforts was **The Day of Doom**.

The Day of Doom must be considered in a purely historical light, for it reveals the Puritan notions of poetry much better than do the poems of Anne Bradstreet. Published in 1662, *The Day of Doom* became America's first best seller. The poem went through ten editions in the next fourteen decades, four in the seventeenth century and six in the eighteenth. In spite of its literary shortcomings, it is still the best "official" statement of the Puritan's attempt to use poetry for a plain exposition of the beliefs by which he tried to live.

The main theme of the poem can be understood as following: you might have fun in this life, but after you die justice will be meted out! The good will be rewarded, the unrighteous punished unmercifully.

The purpose of the poem is to scare the reader in reforming his ways and live according to the Puritan ideals

Answer the questions

1. How do you understand the lines : ' he became a physician of the body as well as of the soul.'?
2. What proves the fact that *The Day of Doom* became America's first best seller?
3. What is the main theme of the poem?
4. What is the purpose of the writing?