

## Discussion Questions, Anne Bradstreet, "The Author To Her Book"

### English IV, Carty

1. In this poem, the speaker refers to her book as "offspring of her feeble brain," a "rambling brat." What does this metaphor suggest about the connection that the speaker has with her writing?
2. *The book* that Bradstreet is most likely referring to here is a collection of her poems called "The Tenth Muse." This collection was brought to London by Bradstreet's brother-in-law, who printed and published it without first telling Bradstreet. Based on the one Bradstreet poem that you've read, do you imagine that her "The Tenth Muse" is "the offspring of a feeble brain," "unfit for light"? Explain.
3. Do you suspect that the feelings expressed in "The Author to Her Book" are legitimate, or are they just false humility? Explain.
4. Comment on the line "I wash'd thy face, but more defects I saw." What might the speaker mean by this? How might it be a metaphor for touching up a work of art?
5. Author Zadie Smith advises writers to "resign [themselves] to the lifelong sadness that comes from never being satisfied." Is there something inherently sad about the publication part of the writing process?
6. Does Bradstreet express this sadness in her poem? Explain.