

The Disappointment

1. Why is this poem titled “The Disappointment”? Who is the disappointed person in the poem? What is their disappointment?
2. Describe Cloris’ feelings and motivations as they change throughout the poem. Use specific passages from the text to support your description.
3. What time of day is the setting for the beginning of this poem? How is this related to the events that take place later?
4. Choose a few of the verbs that indicate what the characters are experiencing. How do they help us understand their motives, their feelings?
5. At what point does the poem change direction? What do you make of the word choices by the poet to indicate this change?
6. Why is there a shift to a first person pronoun in lines 131-32?
7. What 5 things does Lysander curse when he is left alone in the thicket?

The Imperfect Enjoyment

Compare and contrast this poem with “The Disappointment”? Come up with a few observations of what you find interesting, both in terms of content and in terms of style.

1. Consider point of view (i.e. 3rd person vs. 1st person)
2. Compare the 2 conclusions to the poems.
3. What do you think the purpose of each poem is?
4. How would you describe Rochester’s language? Behn’s language?
5. How do these poems represent male sexuality? Female sexuality? How is sexuality represented as connected to a person’s worth?
6. If you were to consider these poems as in competition with each other, who wins and why?