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telling an idea. That is to say, providing a vivid example of the concept will more effectively deliver the intended message to an audience than simply explaining it.

Thus, there are many examples of poetry across the ages that aim to teach a complex concept in a less than straightforward way. Take John Donne's poem "The Flea" as an example of a complex lesson taught with humor. The poem is undeniably meant to convey delight to the audience through its racy imagery and rather absurd concept of a man courting a woman through the analogy of a flea. The speaker of "The Flea" starts with the introduction of his analogy, "Mark but this flea, and mark in this, / How little that which thou deniest me is; / It sucked me first, and now sucks thee, / And in this flea, our two bloods mingled be" (ll. 1-4). The speaker jumps right into the absurd idea of how this flea, carrying the blood of both the speaker and the woman he courts, equates to the idea of the two characters having sex. Already, readers can see how this poem is meant to delight them since such graphic images paired with the upper level of speaking can be quite humorous, if a bit crude to some. The humor makes the poem stick out in

The poem continues with the speaker building his argument further into the ridiculous with implications of his companion's reactions to his antics. In lines eight through eleven, the speaker states, "And pampered swells with one blood made of two / And this, alas, is more than we would do. / Oh stay, three lives in one flea spare, / Where we almost, yea more than married are." The speaker is stating here

further delight to the audience as there is a reaction that mirrors the audience's own curiosity, confusion, and amusement.

However, the counterargument appears: how does this poem educate anyone at all? The poem makes a significant case for why it is delightful and entertaining to read, but to an individual who is more critical of the work, the poem proves to be a perfect example of why

Works Cited

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