

first published African American poet

Phillis Wheatley

Rhyme scheme - heroic couplets

On Being Brought From Africa to America

odd choice for today's lens Capitalized - here only meant as

'Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land, non-Christian
dark (pun - dark skin, but also dark without the light of God)
Taught my benighted soul to understand

U / U / U / U / U / U / U / U /
That there's a God, that there's a Saviour too:

written in iambic pentameter

Once I redemption neither sought nor knew,

black, but with more noble connotation

Some view our sable race with scornful eye,

evil

"Their colour is a diabolic dye."

Remember, Christians, Negroes, black as Cain,

Black Africans were said to be black because of the mark of Cain → one reason for Christians to support slavery

May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

moral message for white Christians

2. Look up these words:

Pagan -

Diabolic -

Redemption -

Refined -

Sable -

3. Now reread the poem.

4. Answer these questions according to the above poem:

* Who/what brought her from Africa?

* Who is Cain? What is his story?

* What literary term is in line 7 (there are three possible answers)?

* What is it that Christians should remember?

* What is Wheatley's viewpoint of her enslavement?

Extra Credit: Why are the words "Saviour" and "Colour" misspelled?

