

Part 2 (75%, roughly 55 minutes). John Milton (1608-1674) wasn't just a poet who changed everything about the way English verse is written; he was also a political thinker who was just about a hundred years ahead of his time. Here, for instance, is a passage from *Areopagitica*, his great pamphlet in defense of freedom of the press. At this point, Milton is arguing against the idea that censorship keeps us virtuous by keeping us ignorant of sin. Since Milton also wrote a grammar book, you might as well read him in the original seventeenth-century spelling.

I cannot praise a fugitive and cloister'd vertue, unexercis'd & unbreath'd, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but slinks out of the race, where that immortall garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat.

Three glosses on that sentence:

A cloister is a building in which a contemplative monk or nun lives a secluded life, locked away from the world.

A sally is "a sudden charge out of a besieged place against the enemy" (*Oxford American Dictionary*).

And the word "garland" here refers to the laurel wreath awarded to winners in the original (ancient Greek) Olympic games, which were performed in honor of Apollo, the god whose symbol is a laurel tree.

But what does the sentence mean? Drawing on your knowledge of metaphor, write an essay that starts with an accurate paraphrase in English 100 English. (You're allowed to write more than one sentence.) Then go on to demonstrate in close detail why Milton's sentence communicates more with its metaphors than your paraphrase does without. "Close detail" means you spend a lot of time saying "For instance," as in, "For instance, the word 'fugitive,' which etymologically means 'running away,' implies. . . ."

Take this sheet home, then bring it back on Tuesday for discussion. On Tuesday we'll also have one more piece of old metrical business to discuss, so read the biographies of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning in the back of the book, then Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess."
