

METAPHYSICAL POETRY

1. The term *Metaphysical* was first used by Dr Johnson who borrowed it from John Dryden's phrase about John Donne , “ He affects the metaphysics”.
2. John Dryden, in his *Discourse Concerning Satire*(1693), said that John Donne in his poetry affects the metaphysics. It is to say that Donne employs the terminology and abstruse arguments of the medieval scholastic philosophers.
3. Dr Samuel Johnson extended the term Metaphysical from John Donne to a school of poets .
4. The name Metaphysical is applied to a group of seventeenth- century poets who, whether or not directly influenced by Donne, employs similar poetic procedures and imagery .
5. The chief Metaphysical poets are George Herbert, Richard Crashaw, Henry Vaughan, Thomas Carew, Abraham Cowley , and Andrew Marvell.
6. The poetry penned by such writers is said to be Metaphysical Poetry.
7. Metaphysical Poetry is to a great extent lyrical in tone, chiefly religious or amatory in subject,

and almost startling in its sudden beauty of phrase and melody of diction in style and moreover there are unexpected turns of language and figures of speech.

8. Metaphysical Poetry is novel in thought and expression, laden with far – fetched images , affectation, hyperbole, obscurity, dramatic realism and a lot of learning.

9. Actually, Metaphysical Verse is laden with the scholarship of its authors . It is said that a whole book of knowledge might be compiled from the scholarly allusions in Donne and Cowley.

10. Johnson writes- The Metaphysical poets were men of learning and to show their learning was their whole endeavour.... They neither copied nature nor life... Their thoughts are often new, but seldom natural; they are not obvious, but neither are they just; and the reader , far from wondering that he missed them, wonders more frequently by what perverseness of industry they were ever found.

