

An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley

Jupiter Hammon

How does Hammon combine praise with instruction when addressing Wheatley?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - opening and direct counsel to Wheatley

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Miss Phillis, you are young and bright,
END	And seek the living God.
PASSAGE ID	sec-hammon-wheatley-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how direct address can establish both respect and authority

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hammon speaks to Wheatley personally, praising her youth and intellect, but the address quickly becomes counsel. The combination creates a complicated speaker-audience relationship: admiration gives him grounds to urge her toward a specific moral and religious path.

MARK

Underline words of praise or recognition. Circle commands or pieces of advice. Box direct forms of address to Wheatley.

NOTICE

- What qualities does Hammon first recognize in Wheatley?
- When does praise become instruction?
- How does direct address make the counsel feel personal rather than general?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Hammon combine praise with instruction when addressing Wheatley? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Hammon combines praise and instruction by first acknowledging Wheatley as gifted and then using that relationship to offer direct religious counsel. Admiration does not remain celebration; it becomes the basis for an authoritative appeal about how those gifts should be used.

EVIDENCE

Use one praising phrase and one command or piece of counsel.

WATCH FOR

Do not label the poem simply as a tribute. Its tension comes from the way praise and moral instruction operate together.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 11 · LESSON 310

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WORK

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PASSAGE ID	sec-hammon-wheatley-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Miss Phillis, you are young and bright,

END

And seek the living God.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline words of praise or recognition. Circle commands or pieces of advice. Box direct forms of address to Wheatley.
2. NOTICE What qualities does Hammon first recognize in Wheatley? When does praise become instruction? How does direct address make the counsel feel personal rather than general?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Hammon combine praise with instruction when addressing Wheatley?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.