

Verses upon the Burning of Our House

Anne Bradstreet

How does Bradstreet’s speaker argue with her own attachment to the destroyed house?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - from waking to the turn toward heavenly treasure

TEACHER SETUP

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

START	In silent night when rest I took
END	My hope and treasure lies above.
PASSAGE ID	sec-bradstreet-fire-01

THE MOVE

Trace an internal argument in which emotion and belief do not change at the same speed

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The speaker feels the loss concretely, remembering rooms and possessions, yet repeatedly corrects herself with religious doctrine. The poem matters because belief does not erase grief instantly; instead, the speaker uses belief to answer her own attachment line by line.

MARK

Underline details of physical loss. Circle places where the speaker corrects or instructs herself. Box statements about who truly owns possessions. Star the final statement of where her treasure lies.

NOTICE

- Which memories show that the house still matters emotionally?
- What words signal that the speaker is reasoning with herself?
- Does the religious conclusion erase the earlier grief, or answer it?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Bradstreet's speaker argue with her own attachment to the destroyed house? 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

Bradstreet stages belief as a response to grief rather than a replacement for it. The speaker mourns specific possessions and spaces, then repeatedly reminds herself that earthly goods were never fully hers and redirects the idea of treasure toward heaven.

EVIDENCE

Use one concrete memory of the house and one self-correcting religious statement.

WATCH FOR

Do not claim that the speaker simply accepts the fire calmly. The poem's tension is the effort required to bring feeling into line with belief.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 11 · LESSON 313

Verses upon the Burning of Our House

Anne Bradstreet

How does Bradstreet's speaker argue with her own attachment to the destroyed house?

WORK

Verses upon the Burning of Our House

TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - from waking to the turn toward heavenly treasure
PASSAGE ID	sec-bradstreet-fire-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

In silent night when rest I took

END

My hope and treasure lies above.

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 details of physical loss. Circle places where the speaker corrects or instructs herself. Box statements about who truly owns possessions. Star the final statement of where her treasure lies.
2. **NOTICE** Which memories show that the house still matters emotionally? What words signal that the speaker is reasoning with herself? Does the religious conclusion erase the earlier grief, or answer it?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does Bradstreet's speaker argue with her own attachment to the destroyed house?
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.