

Carpe Diem poetry

Carpe Diem: Latin for “seize the day.”

- Phrase first used by Roman poet and soldier Horace.
- Describes lyric poems that exemplify the idea of **“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die.”**
- Common topic of Renaissance love poetry with the speaker exhorting his mistress to yield to love while she has her youth and beauty.
- As with the concept of *Ubi Sunt* employed by the Anglo-Saxons, **time is man’s nemesis and unrelenting foe.**

“To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time”

1. How does the poem reveal that time is man’s enemy? Cite specific examples of how time is **personified** for this purpose.
2. How does the setting of the sun serve as a **symbol** in the poem?
3. What line(s) from the poem best illustrates the ***carpe diem*** concept? Why?
4. Compose a theme statement for the poem. Remember that it must apply to all humanity and not be limited to characters in the poem.