

## ANNE GREGORY

In the first stanza, the speaker, a young man, says that her (Anne Gregori's) beautiful honey-coloured hair can make any man fall in love with her. This love is not for Anne but for her beautiful features. Anne's gorgeous hair has been compared to walls, symbolising outer beauty that prevents anyone from looking inside her soul. This beauty can capture any man's attention so that they may never be able to look beyond that beauty and into Anne's character. This is what makes the speaker believe that no man can love Anne, for what she is, without her beauty. One can love her only for her beautiful yellow hair and her beauty.

In the second stanza, Anne replies to the speaker of the first stanza. She says that what is visible from the outside is very superficial and not important. She gives an example of her beautiful hair, that she can change the colour of her hair and dye it black, brown or carrot. Just like the colour of her hair is changeable, outer beauty of any kind is changeable and hence not true. She wants to tell the speaker that anyone falling in love with her must see the actual person behind the beauty. Anne thinks that young men, who fall in love with her, must love her

for what she is and not for her yellow hair or outward appearance.

In the third and final stanza of the poem, the speaker replies to Anne's statement about love for internal and not for external beauty. The speaker mentions an old religious man, who announced that he had found a text in which it is written that only God is capable of looking beyond external beauty. Here speaker means that humans do not have the depth and understanding to look inside the soul of a person. Humans are always carried away by the shine and glitter of outer beauty and they never care to know the person behind the beautiful appearance. Therefore, the speaker concludes that only God can love Anne only for herself and not her beauty.

**1. What does the young man mean by “great honey-coloured /Ramparts at your ear?” Why does he say that young men are “thrown into despair” by them?**

The “great honey-coloured/Ramparts at your ear” refers to the beautiful yellow coloured hair that falls at the woman's ear and cover it like a wall around a fort. He says that the young men are

“thrown into despair” by them because they look so beautiful on the woman that her beauty gets thoroughly enhanced. The young men fall in love with her and feel despair. He says that it is not possible that someone would love her alone and not her yellow hair.

## **2. What colour is the young woman's hair?**

**What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?**

Anne's hair are yellow, like the colour of honey. She says that she can change it to black, brown or carrot; she means that she can change it to any colour she wants. Anne says so to show that outer beauty is changeable and not permanent or real. She wants young men to look in her soul and love her for her inner beauty. In order to do so, she needs to show them the superficiality of her external beauty.

**3. Objects have qualities which make them desirable to others. Can you think of some objects (a car, a phone, a dress...) and say what qualities make one object more desirable than another? Imagine you were**

## **trying to sell an object: what qualities would you emphasise?**

People desire objects because of their qualities that suit their need. The things we consume, goods we use such as a car, a phone, a dress etc. physical qualities matter the most. Before buying anything, it is always considered that the object is durable and looks pretty. If I were to sell a dress, I would select the one that is very appealing to the eye and comfortable for the body. Then I would emphasise on the durability of the dress so that the customer feels that he/she is spending his/her money at the right place and in the right thing.