Features of METAPHYSICAL POETRY

• Employs a conversational tone, accomplished through rough meter, colloquial diction, and enjambment (to obscure rime scheme);

• Experiments with established poetic (stanza) forms;

• Often invokes a dramatic situation in which the speaker assumes the identity of one character addressing another, as in a little play;

• Represents a personal and private poetry that is psychologically realistic

• Signifies a genuinely rhetorical poetry having “designs” upon its audience; speakers often adopt an analytical, argumentative stance to persuade auditor/reader of truth, not just state or express it;

• Is typically intellectually complex, dense, with frequent reliance on conceit, paradox, oxymoron, puns [i.e., WIT];

• Exhibits a tendency to “problematize” experience, to render experience as problematic; to view, interpret, or analyze experience as a kind of problem to be solved.

--to offer alternatives to the status quo;

--to challenge old, traditional, established ways of thinking and writing about certain subjects, including poetry itself;

--to recognize the opposing views, alternatives, or other possibilities in any given situation and often to effect some new synthesis or reconciliation of them.