

## Extended Response Example: Anne Bradstreet

Anne Bradstreet's work is mostly meditational. She conveys her thoughts and emotions prayerfully, by focusing on events that have occurred, and portrays a clearly Biblical world view. In her piece entitled, "...Upon the Burning of Our House...", Bradstreet shares a valuable lesson that she learned through the loss of her house. Specifically, in lines 51-54, she bids farewell to her material possessions and confirms that her "hope and treasure lies above." What does this mean? How is this relevant in the world today? Does scripture support this idea? If so, which ones?

Write a one paragraph extended response (200-250 words) that explores the idea that our hope lies above, based on Bradstreet's poem and your own personal experiences and observations.

Remember the following:

- You must include a strong, persuasive topic sentence
- You must include two properly integrated proofs (i.e. one Bradstreet quote and one Bible verse)
- You must include a clincher sentence to sum up the paragraph
- Your ER must show evidence of thorough proofreading! Use the checklist below as a guide and staple it to your response for submission.

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4 September 2019

\* Note: references to actual historical events should be written in past tense. However, verbs relating to the poem itself should be in literary present tense.

Strong, persuasive topic sentence

Extended Response- Bradstreet

Anne Bradstreet's poem entitled "Upon the Burning of My House" provides a compelling reminder to Christians of all ages that hope and comfort must rest in the eternal God rather than the transient things of this world. Bradstreet suffered numerous losses during her lifetime. This poem vividly describes the emotional turmoil she experienced while watching her family home burn to the ground. Amidst her personal tragedy Bradstreet penned the words, "The world no longer let me love, my hope and treasure lies above" (St. John 67). Although Bradstreet's poem clearly portrays her struggle with this devastating loss, these words reveal her purposeful choice to recall the goodness of God rather than dwell on her suffering. Today, one look at the headlines reveals a world filled with similar suffering and disappointment. Sadly, many people seek hope in work, money, education, or fame, somehow thinking that these temporal pleasures will provide them with the security they seek, only to face disappointment in the long run. The Bible provides the only true answers for those seeking lasting peace. The Apostle Paul exhorts believers to "set [their] minds on things above, not on earthly things" (NIV, Col. 3.2). Christ also tells Christians to "store up...treasures in heaven" because "where [their] treasure is, [their] heart[s] will be also" (Matt. 6.20). Bradstreet clearly understood, as all followers of Christ should, that only a heavenward mindset will sustain believers in this fallen and broken world. Though the things of this world never last, Christ offers eternal hope and comfort to those who put their faith in Him.

← context  
← blended quote  
← commentary

context ↓

← blended quote  
← commentary

↑  
Clincher