

Upon My Son Samuel his Going for England, Novem. 6. 1657.

This poem can be read as a kind of prayer. It was written by Ann Bradstreet to mark her son sailing to England in 1657.

1. List the words that suggest this is a prayer.
2. Pick out the phrases where Bradstreet talks about giving her son back to God.
3. Why does she want to do this?
4. What concerns does Bradstreet have for her son?
5. What will cause her to “celebrate thy praise”?
6. If she does not get her wishes, what reaction will she have?
7. Describe the way the poem rhymes.
8. Comment on the rhythm and tone of the poem.
9. **In your own words, describe the relationship that Bradstreet has with God.** (N.B. Look at lines 9&10, among others)
10. **How does this relationship affect the way she feels about her son?** (N.B. Look at lines 5&6, 7&8, among others)
11. **How does the fact that the poem was written in 1657, affect the content?**
12. **What is your personal response to this poem? Do you like it or not? Give reasons for your feelings about the poem and find quotations to back up your points.**

Resign – give up

Rest – death

Stay'd – waited for

Brittle – fragile

Vow – promises

Mortal – human

Grace – favour

Wrack – wreckage