

“To His Excellency, General Washington” by Phillis Wheatley

<p>Celestial choir! Enthron'd in realms of light, Columbia's scenes of glorious toil I write. While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms, She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms. See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan, And nations gaze at scenes before unknown! See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light Involved in sorrows and the veil of night!</p>	<p>What's going on in this stanza?</p> <p>What is the apostrophe?</p> <p>What is the oxymoron?</p>
<p>The goddess comes, she moves divinely fair. Olive and laurel binds her golden hair: Wherever shines this native of the skies, Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.</p>	<p>What's going on?</p> <p>What are the symbols in this stanza, and what do they represent?</p>
<p>Muse! Bow propitious while my pen relates How pour her armies through a thousand gates, As when Eolus heaven's fair face deforms, Enwrapp'd in tempest and a night of storms; Astonish'd ocean feels the wild uproar, The refluents surge beat the sounding shore; Or thick as leaves in Autumn's golden reign, Such, and so many, moves the warrior's train. In bright array they seek the work of war, Where high unfurl'd the ensign waves in air.</p>	<p>What's going on?</p> <p>What is the allusion?</p> <p>What is the personification?</p> <p>What is the simile?</p>
<p>Shall I to Washington their praise recite? Enough thou know'st them in the fields of fight. Thee, first in peace and honors—we demand The grace and glory of thy marital band. Fam'd for thy valor, for thy virtues more, Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!</p>	<p>What's going on?</p>
<p>One century scarce perform'd its destiny round, When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found; And so may you, whoever dares disgrace The land of freedom's heaven-defended race! Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales, For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails. Anon Britannia droops the pensive head, While round increase the rising hills of dead. Ah! Cruel blindness to Columbia's state! Lament they thirst of boundless power too late.</p>	<p>What's going on?</p> <p>What examples of personification are here?</p>
<p>Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side, Thy ev'ry action let the goddess guide. A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine, With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine!</p>	<p>What's going on?</p> <p>What is the allusion?</p>