

Discussion Questions on Sidney

1. What details of Sidney's life are especially striking? Consider especially the accounts of his death (1037-1039).
2. What does a poet mean to the Romans and to the Greeks (1048-1049), and how does Sidney see the poet as holding a privileged, almost God-like, role in relation to nature (1050)?
3. What are the four charges against poetry, and what is the chief charge (1068)? What are Sidney's answers to the first two charges against poetry (1068-1069)?
4. What is the first sonnet in the *Astrophil and Stella* sonnet cycle about (1084-1085)? What does the speaker mean by the line "And others' feet still seemed but strangers in my way?" How does Sonnet 15 (1087) echo ideas in Sonnet 1?
5. What is the second sonnet about (1085), and how does it echo the ideas and the poetic approach in Wyatt's "The long love" (648)?