‘My pilgrimage’s last mile…’
★ Religious connotations
★ Penance – to atone for sins in preparation for death; echoes poem, ‘fall my sins…’
★ Relatable to the reader at the time – pilgrimage was a common occurrence
★ Suggests life was a hardship leading to something divine

‘My race… hath this last pace,’
★ Life as a competition – rat race
★ Destination – where is the finish line? Running towards death or away?
★ Speed – tiring, last effort; last step to take
★ Monosyllabic words create rhythm; halting steps, oxymoron

‘sleep a space…’
★ Suggests an unknown length of time
★ Waiting for final judgement – religious connotations

‘earth-born body…’
★ No personal pronouns – detached; idea that soul is separate from body
★ Hoping to return to where it came from – sins to hell, soul to heaven

scene – mile – race – inch – point
★ Getting smaller, nearer to the end
★ Each little bit is becoming precious
★ Perception of time changes as get older – goes faster; proportional to life time
★ Wanting to savour what is left of life – on some level doesn’t want it to end; or counting down time till heaven

Themes:

Religion –
★ Is it a prayer? He’s hoping to get to heaven; one sided conversation with God
★ Admitting he has sins to make up for
★ ‘For thus I leave the world, the flesh, the Devil.’ – Material possessions, adultery and the Devil where seen as the three major causes of temptation to sin