

'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 – pace – 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