

Use of Machinery

## **Mock-heroic/epic.**

Poem is a mock-epic that is a satire on the frivolous life of then present day society.

Pope employs characteristics of an epic such as the invocation of a muse, heroic couplet, and BLANK.

Instead of using Greek mythology gods and goddesses, Pope uses supernatural "machinery" such as nymphs, gnomes, sylphs, and salamanders.- involved in earthly events

Sylphs try to protect Belinda- mention Ariel

Sylphs are born from beautiful women

- The women who are quarrelsome after their death, their soul goes to fire and such women become Salamander
- Those women who are polite submissive, after their death their soul returns to water and they become Nymphs
- Those women who are proud, serious minded, their soul go to Earth and they become Gnome
- Those women who are flirt and coquette, after their death, their soul go to air and they become Sylphs

The speech of the sylph echoes the heroes speech in classic epics.

Ariel assigns each sylph a special job

Brillante-take care of Belinda's hair

Ariel- take care of Belinda's lap dog

Sylphs job is to not protect her from failure, but to protect her from the success of attracting men

Machinery present a picture of what we would now call ideology, in this case, a critically important "ideology of feminine virtue" which guides Belinda's every move.

## **Mocks gods/goddesses**

### **Way to satirize women without seeming too critical**

Sylphs become an allegory for the mannered conventions that govern female social behavior  
Women don't present themselves as moral people, but are governed by an elaborate social mechanism.

Allow pope to critique the situation

Help to keep the satire light and to exonerate individual women from too severe a judgement

## **Comedy**

Sylph is overenthusiastic when Baron cuts Belinda's lock and goes in between them. Gets cut into two but is reunited.

Sit on cards of Ombre so that Belinda may win.

Its comic in that they fail at being messengers and protectors

She wants baron to invade her space (when Ariel enters into her brain)

Hair ends up getting cut

Falls for a man- doesn't protect chastity

