

Bite-Sized Book Club

Week 3: Essay

Saturday, July 26

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Essay Selection:

The essay for this week concerns Margaret Cavendish, a "poet, philosopher, scientist, playwright, fashion pioneer, science fiction writer and early feminist" from 17th century Britain. Although Cavendish may not be a widely known author today, she has left a complex and interesting literary legacy behind. As the author of this week's essay writes, "Was Cavendish a feminist pioneer, or an eccentric dilettante? Early scientist, or 'mad Madge'? And why, exactly, do opinions insist on varying between such poles?"

Suggested Reflection Questions:

- Are you familiar with Margaret Cavendish at all? What stands out to you as you read this account of her life?
- Are you familiar with the English Civil War? What stands out to you about this period as you read this essay?
- Do you enjoy reading this type of essay? How do you feel about the author's writing style or ideas?
- What stands out to you as memorable or interesting as you read this essay?
- Have you read any other works that seem to connect with this essay?

Further Reading:

Available at Town Hall Library:

- *Margaret the First* by Danielle Dutton (Call Number: FIC DUT PB)
- *Bygone Badass Broads: 52 Forgotten Women Who Changed the World* by Mackenzi Lee (Call Number: 920.72 LEE)

Available through Bridges Library System (Place Hold):

- *The Blazing World and Other Writings* by Margaret Cavendish
- *The Blazing World* by Margaret Cavendish
- *Cavalier: A Tale of Chivalry, Passion, and Great Houses* by Lucy Worsley
- *Pure Wit: The Revolutionary Life of Margaret Cavendish* by Francesca Peacock (Audiobook and Digital Copies available through Hoopla)
- And more!