

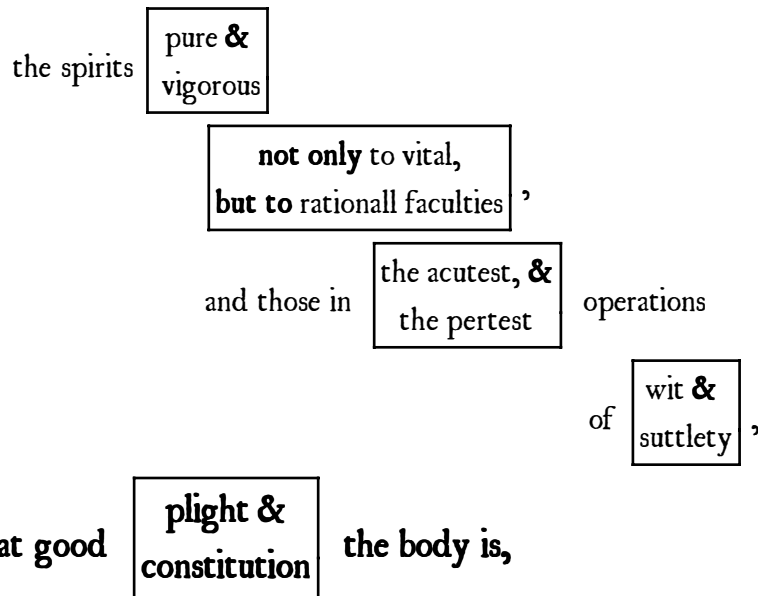
Activity 17.7 – John Milton *Areopagitica* – style

Diagrammatic representation of the balanced syntax – *as...when, so...when; methinks I see...methinks I see; not only to...but to; not...nor*; and the abundance of conjoined words and phrases, *pure and vigorous, old and wrincl'd, purging and unscaling* etc.

FOR

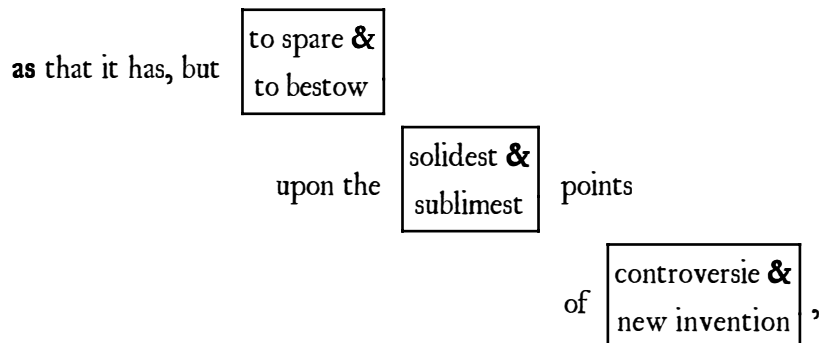
[MCI₁] AS in a body, ~

fi [AdvCl₁] WHEN the blood is fresh,

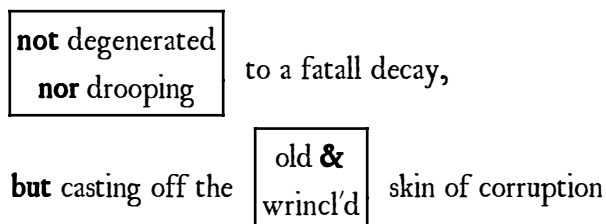


[MCI₂] SO fi

fi [AdvCl₂] WHEN the cherfulness of the people is so sprightly up,



~ [MCI₂] it betok'ns us



to outlive these pangs &
wax young again

entring the glorious waies of

Truth &
prosperous vertue

destin'd to became

great &
honourable

in these latter ages.

[MCI 3] Methinks I see in my mind a

noble &
puissant

Nation

rousing herself like a strong man after sleep &
shaking her invincible locks

[MCI 4] Methinks I see her as an Eagle

muining her mighty youth &
kindling her undazl'd eyes

at the full midday beam;

purging &
unscaling

her long abused sight at the fountain it self of heav'nly radiance;

fi [AdvCl 3]

WHILE the whole noise of

timorous &
flocking

birds,

with those also that love the twilight,

flutter about,

amaz'd at what she means,

fi [AdvCl 4]

& in their envious gabble would prognosticate

a year of

sects &
schisms

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If we omit subordinate non-finite clauses marked by past and present participles and infinitives, eg : *to spare, to bestow, degenerated, drooping, entring, destin'd, rousing, shaking, muing, kindling, purging, unscaling, amaz'd*, and other 'right-branching' phrases and clauses which develop the metaphorical argument, the essential structure of the text is made clearer:

As in a body, when the blood is fresh, it argues in what good plight and constitution the body is, so when the cherfulness of the people is so sprightly up, it betok'ns us to outlive these pangs and wax young again. Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant Nation; Methinks I see her as an Eagle, while the whole noise of timorous and flocking birds, flutter about, and in their envious gabble would prognosticate a year of sects and schisms.

Choice of vocabulary

The vocabulary of Text 133 is printed in full in the *Word Book* and shows the distribution of core vocabulary and later loan-words from French and Latin.

86.0% of Milton's vocabulary in this text had been assimilated by the end of the 14th C, and 14.0% introduced from the 15th to 17th C, including French loan-words *invincible, puissant, timorous*, and Latin loan-words *prognosticate, degenerated, sublimest* and *radiance*.
