Reading Andrew Marvell’s “To his Coy Mistress”

Instructions:
After reading through Andrew Marvell’s “To his Coy Mistress” once, answer the following questions, then move on to the annotation chart.

Who is the speaker of the poem? What can you know about the speaker based on his statements?

Who is he addressing (who is his audience)? What can you know about the audience based on what the speaker says?

What is the speaker’s basic argument?

Use the following worksheet to take notes as you read through Andrew Marvell’s poem. As you read, note the following on the worksheet:
- Questions about a word or phrase (use a dictionary as you read)
- Uses of imagery
- Uses of tone

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Use the “Line #” column to mark the line(s) you are referencing in the poem. In the “Notation” column, write down a note about the line (such as in the examples below). During discussion, you can use the Additional Notes section to add further thoughts. As you begin to discuss imagery, tone, and form, you can use the Type column to indicate if your notes are relevant to either of these literary devices by marking the column with an I, T, or F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line #</th>
<th>Notation</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td><em>Coy,</em> from the title, means “modest or shy in a provocative or playful way”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>“Humber” – The Humber is a river in England; Marvell lived nearby as a child.</td>
<td>Marvell places his mistress near the Ganges (see line 5). What is suggested by all this water imagery?</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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