**Discussion Prep Sheet for Dryden’s “Annus Mirabilis”**

ENGL 1302-49, Spring 2012

Our reading for Tuesday is a portion of Dryden’s longer poem, “Annus Mirabilis.” You should begin reading on p. 58 (starting with line 833) and continue to p. 65 (through line 1044), then pick up reading again on p. 68 (starting with line 1149) and read through the end of the poem. Use the following discussion questions and the strategies for critical reading that we discussed in class to annotate the poem as you read. (To annotate simply means to read a text critically, underlining or highlighting key terms and making notes about significant words/passages and any questions or observations you have while reading.)

1. As you did with Pepys’s *Diary*, identify lines in the poem where Dryden gives his readers specific details about *place.* Where in the poem do you see images of the sights, smells, and sounds of London before and after the Great Fire?
2. How does Dryden use metaphor and/or personification to describe the fire and its movement? Find 2 or 3 examples in the poem and note the line numbers.
3. After identifying the examples above, look at lines 849 and following. What metaphor does Dryden use here to describe the fire? “Annus Mirabilis” is in many ways a political poem; we will discuss some of the specific historical allusions Dryden makes in the poem on Tuesday. For now, though, do you notice any other places in the poem where Dryden uses political terminology? (Note specific line numbers.)
4. What is Dryden’s vision for the city of London, post-fire? What does he imagine London being or becoming? How does this representation of a future London affect his account/representation of the fire? (Consider especially lines 844-7 and line 1169 to the end of the poem when formulating your answer to this question.]
5. How does Dryden’s poetic account of the fire differ from Pepys’s account in his *Diary*? List at least two differences that you notice between the two primary texts.
6. Identify one line or stanza in the poem that strikes you as particularly significant and be prepared to explain its significance.