

Phillis Wheatley Poem to King George III: *To the King's Most Excellent Majesty*
1768

Name: _____

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty 1768

Your subjects hope, dread Sire--
The crown upon your brows may flourish long,
And that your arm may in your God be strong!
O may your sceptre num'rous nations sway,
And all with love and readiness obey!
But how shall we the British king reward!
Rule thou in peace, our father, and our lord!
Midst the remembrance of thy favours past,
The meanest peasants most admire the last
May George, beloved by all the nations round,
Live with heav'ns choicest constant blessings crown'd!
Great God, direct, and guard him from on high,
And from his head let ev'ry evil fly!
And may each clime with equal gladness see
A monarch's smile can set his subjects free

1. What is the tone of Wheatley's poem about King George? Is it positive? Negative? Give evidence from the poem.
2. What role does "God" play in the poem? Explain.

3. Why do you think Phillis Wheatley wrote this poem to King George?

4. Pretend you are King George III. What would you say in return to Phillis Wheatley?