

## BEREAVEMENT POEMS

### Epitaph Upon a Child That Died

by Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

*HERE she lies, a pretty bud,  
Lately made of flesh and blood:  
Who as soon fell fast asleep  
As her little eyes did peep.  
Give her strewings, but not stir  
The earth that lightly covers her.*

### Remember

by Christina Rossetti (1862)

*Remember me when I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more hold me by the hand,  
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more day by day  
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me for a while  
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:  
For if the darkness and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,  
Better by far you should forget and smile  
Than that you should remember and be sad.*

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### On My First Sonne

by Ben Jonson (1616)

*Farewell, thou child of my right hand, and joy;  
My sinne was too much hope of thee, lov'd boy;  
Seven yeeres tho' wert lent to me, and I thee pay,  
Exacted by thy fate, on the just day.  
O, could I loose all father, now. For why  
Will man lament the state he should envie?  
To have so soon scap'd worlds and fleshes rage,  
And, if no other miserie, yet age?  
Rest in soft peace, and, ask'd, say here doth lye  
Ben. Johnson his best piece of poetrie.  
For whose sake, hence-forth, all his vowes be such,  
As what he loves may never like too much.*