Name_____

On Being Brought From Africa to America

Phyllis Wheatley, ca. 1773

‘Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God, that there's a Saviour too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
"Their colour is a diabolic die."
Remember, Christians, Negros, black as Cain,
May be refin'd and join th'angelic train.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the overall tone of this poem.

2. In your opinion, what does Phyllis Wheatley mean, when she says that, “Their colour is a diabolic die”