

***Posing in Paradise* – A Grundy Glossary**

Mr. and Mrs. Grundy are very loosely based on George and Nell, or the Citizen and his Wife, characters in Francis Beaumont's delightful *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*. This play was published in 1613, and was the most thoroughly modern (in the literary sense) dramatic work of the next three hundred years. But the commentary of George and Nell is never quite as learned as that of Mr. and Mrs. Grundy....

bogs : 17th-century slang for a latrine

canal : Mrs. Grundy's own, rather obvious, euphemism for a woman's secret

Doll Tearsheet : a prostitute and associate of Falstaff in *Henry IV, Part 1*

Ireland : the buttocks; from *The Comedy of Errors*, III.i.110

it : 17th-century slang for the act of love

Low Countries : 17th-century slang for a woman's genital region

Monk : short for Monkey; Shakespearean slang for a lecher, used here by Mrs. Grundy as a term of endearment

Mouse : a 17th-century pet name for a woman; used by George in *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*

Netherlands : a woman's secret, a reference to the Low Countries (see above); from *The Comedy of Errors*, III.i.110

put down : Shakespearean slang for a man's taking of a woman

ramp : 17th-century slang for a wanton woman

thing : 17th-century slang for a woman's secret

trout groping : from Shakespeare's "groping for trout in a peculiar river," a euphemism for "it," with the watercourse standing in for "thing"; from *Measure for Measure*, I.ii.8