

Name:	Class:
	Class.

I'm Nobody! Who Are You?

By Emily Dickinson 1891

Emily Dickinson (1830-1836) was an American poet who lived a mostly introverted, secluded life, maintaining friendships through written letters. She wrote over 1800 poems in her seclusion, most of which were published after her death. In "I'm Nobody! Who are you?" the speaker takes pride in maintaining a private identity. As you read, take notes on Dickinson's opinions on personal living and what it takes to be a "somebody."

- [1] I'm Nobody! Who are you?

 Are you Nobody too?

 Then there's a pair of us!

 Don't tell! they'd advertise you know!
- [5] How dreary to be Somebody!
 How public like a Frog To tell one's name the livelong June To an admiring Bog!



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[RL.2]

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

Which of the following statements best summarizes a central idea of the text?

1.

A.	Sometimes it can be fun to pretend you are invisible.	
В.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
C.	Private living will prevent the spread of gossip.	
D.	Public life is exhausting and not worth the effort.	
What doe	s the word "advertise" mean, as used in line 4?	[RL.4]
A.	To commercialize	
B.	To show or project	
C.	To spread rumors or tell other people	
D.	To promote	
	s the speaker use diction and figurative language to portray what it's like to nebody"? What tone does this create? Cite evidence to support your answer.	[RL.3]
Describe overall po	the form and/or structure of this poem. What effect does this have on the pem?	[RL.5]



Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1.	What is the message of this poem? Keep in mind the context of Dickinson's background and explain, citing evidence from the text and history in your answer.
2.	What does it mean to be "somebody?" What does it mean to be "nobody?" Which is better in the context of this poem? Which is better in your opinion? Explain your answer.
3.	As you answer those questions, think about the question: What makes you who you are? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, history, and other art or literature in your answer.
4.	Dickinson is famous for isolating herself from society. In the context of this poem, what does it mean to be alone? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature or art in your answer.