

Name: _____ 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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Text-Dependent Questions

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

1. Which of the following statements best summarizes a central idea of the text? [RL.2]
- A. Sometimes it can be fun to pretend you are invisible.
 - B. It is better to maintain a private identity than to be put on display as a public identity.
 - C. Private living will prevent the spread of gossip.
 - D. Public life is exhausting and not worth the effort.

2. What does 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

3. How does the speaker use diction and figurative language to portray what it’s like to be a “Somebody”? What tone does this create? Cite evidence to support your answer. [RL.3]

4. Describe the form and/or structure of this poem. What effect does this have on the overall poem? [RL.5]
