

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## I'm Nobody! Who Are You?

By Emily Dickinson  
1891

*Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) 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. As you read, take notes on the speaker'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 theme of the poem?
  - A. Sometimes it can be fun for people to pretend they are invisible.
  - B. It is better to maintain a private identity than seek fame and recognition.
  - C. Private living will prevent the spread of public gossip.
  - D. Public life is exhausting and not worth the effort.
  
2. What does the word "advertise" mean as used in line 4?
  - A. to commercialize
  - B. to reveal
  - C. to publicize
  - D. to promote
  
3. What is the significance of line 3 in the overall meaning of the poem?
  - A. It conveys that nobodies can experience companionship rather than simply isolation.
  - B. It implies that the speaker has never met another nobody before and is not sure how to respond.
  - C. It reveals that the speaker is lonely and looking for a meaningful relationship in life.
  - D. It shows that there is more power in being a group of nobodies compared to just one somebody.
  
4. How does the speaker use diction and figurative language to portray what it's like to be a "Somebody" and how does this impact the meaning of the text? Cite evidence from the poem to support your answer.

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