

I'm Nobody! Who are you?

Emily Dickinson

Why does the poem make being “Somebody” sound less desirable than being “Nobody”?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Poem - complete poem

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	I'm Nobody! Who are you?
END	To an admiring Bog!
PASSAGE ID	sec-nobody-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how a poem reverses the ordinary value of a label

WHY THIS PASSAGE

“Nobody” usually sounds like an insult, while “Somebody” sounds desirable. Dickinson reverses those expectations by associating anonymity with companionship and privacy, while public identity becomes repetitive, exposed, and frog-like. The contrast turns social status into a question about freedom from performance.

MARK

Underline words associated with Nobody. Circle words associated with Somebody. Box the comparison to a frog and bog. Star the command that protects the pair’s privacy.

NOTICE

- What changes when the speaker discovers another Nobody?
- Why must the pair not tell?
- What is ridiculous about the frog comparison?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the poem make being “Somebody” sound less desirable than being “Nobody”? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The poem makes Nobody desirable because anonymity allows private companionship without constant public display. By contrast, Somebody must keep announcing an identity to an audience, which the frog image makes repetitive and absurd.

EVIDENCE

Use the private “pair of us” moment and the frog/bog comparison in the second stanza.

WATCH FOR

Do not equate Nobody with loneliness. The poem immediately turns it into a shared identity.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 8 · LESSON 282

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WORK	I'm Nobody! Who are you?
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Poem - complete poem

PASSAGE ID	sec-nobody-01
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

I'm Nobody! Who are you?

END

To an admiring Bog!

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline words associated with Nobody. Circle words associated with Somebody. Box the comparison to a frog and bog. Star the command that protects the pair's privacy.
2. NOTICE What changes when the speaker discovers another Nobody? Why must the pair not tell? What is ridiculous about the frog comparison?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: Why does the poem make being "Somebody" sound less desirable than being "Nobody"?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.