

**Standards/Objectives**

**RL.11-12.9** Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.

**Objective:** Define the major characteristics of American romanticism as used in works by the American poets Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Samuel Woodworth

**\*\*This assignment is Evidence #1 for the Unit 3 Poetry Quiz.\*\***

## Emily Dickinson

### Quick Facts

- She was an American poet.
- She was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, to a successful family with strong community ties,
- She lived a mostly introverted and reclusive life.

Born: December 10, 1830

Died: May 15, 1886



Directions: For each poem, you will...

- (1) Read the poem aloud at least once.
- (2) Annotate the poem using SMILES.
- (3) Identify the characteristics of **Romanticism** present in the poem.  
\*\*There may be more than one!\*\*
  - Quest for beauty
  - Escape from daily troubles
  - Journey to freedom (represented in nature as opposed to the oppressive city)
  - Use of far-away, imaginative settings
  - Use of the supernatural, myths, legends, and folklore
- (4) Identify the characteristics of **Transcendentalism** present in the poem (if any).
  - Celebration of the “self”
  - The divinity [holiness] of every living being

## A Bird Came Down

A bird came down the walk:  
He did not know I saw;  
He bit an angle-worm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew  
From a convenient grass,  
And then hopped sidewise to the wall  
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes  
That hurried all abroad,—  
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;  
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,  
I offered him a crumb,  
And he unrolled his feathers  
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,  
Too silver for a seam,  
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,  
Leap, splashless, as they swim.

- Emily Dickinson

## **A narrow fellow in the Grass**

A narrow fellow in the grass  
Occasionally rides;  
You may have met him,---did you not,  
His notice sudden is.

The grass divides as with a comb  
A spotted shaft is seen;  
And then it closes at your feet  
And opens further on.

He likes a boggy acre,  
A floor too cool for corn.  
Yet when a child, and barefoot,  
I more than once, at morn,

Have passed, I thought, a whip-lash  
Unbraiding in the sun,--  
When, stooping to secure it,  
It wrinkled, and was gone.

Several of nature's people  
I know, and they know me;  
I feel for them a transport  
Of cordiality;

But never met this fellow,  
Attended or alone,  
Without a tighter breathing,  
And zero at the bone.

- Emily Dickinson

## **This is my letter to the World**

This is my letter to the World  
That never wrote to Me --  
The simple News that Nature told --  
With tender Majesty

Her Message is committed  
To Hands I cannot see --  
For love of Her -- Sweet -- countrymen --  
Judge tenderly -- of Me

- Emily Dickinson