

## Poem Assignment: Analyzing for Tone

### 1.

Read and annotate the following poem, and answer the questions that accompany it.

#### "Crossing the Bar" By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,  
    And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
    When I put out to sea,  
5 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
    Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
    Turns again home.

10 Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
    When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place  
    The flood may bear me far,  
15 I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
    When I have crossed the bar.

#### Questions

1. What are the two different figures that the poet uses to stand for death?
2. What is the exact moment of death in each instance?
3. What kind of death is the poet wishing for here? Why does he say that he wants no "sadness of farewell"?
4. What is the "boundless deep"?  
    What is the tone of this poem?

### 2.

Read and annotate the following poem, and answer the questions that accompany it.

#### "One Dignity Delays for All" By Emily Dickinson

One dignity delays for all,  
One mitred afternoon.  
None can avoid this purple,  
None avoid this crown.

Coach it insures, and footmen.  
Chamber and state and throng;  
Bells, also, in the village,  
As we ride grand along.  
What dignified attendants,

What service as we pause!  
How loyally at parting,  
Their hundred hats they raise!

How pomp surpassing ermine  
When simple you and I  
Present our meek escutcheon  
And claim the rank to die!

**Questions:**

1. What is the "dignity" that "delays for all"?
2. What is being discussed in the second and third stanzas?
3. Look up the following words if you are not sure of their meaning: *mitred*, *escutcheon*.
4. What is the tone of this poem? How does this poem differ in tone from Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar"?