

INTERPRETING POETRY

No One's Waving, We're All Drowning

Essential Question

- ❖ How does our worldview shape how we personally view ourselves?

Agreement Circles

❖ People misunderstand each other.

Agreement Circles

♥ People are lonely.

Agreement Circles

❖ You see what's around you.

Agreement Circles

- ❖ Two people can see the same thing and see something different.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Who is the speaker of the poem? Who does the speaker align himself with- the drowning man or the onlookers?
- ❖ What is the effect of repetition in the poem?
- ❖ By altering the first stanza's final phrase, what does Smith suggest about the life of the drowned man?
- ❖ Smith's poem asks us to think about the ways in which we misunderstand or misread the people around us- what opinion does the gathered crowd seem to have of the drowned man?
- ❖ Does the poem suggest that they ever know the truth about him? Can you imagine the type of person he was from the poem's descriptions?

Literature Graffiti

Directions:

1. Complete the left side first. This is the “cover art”. Imagine the poem is a book. What would the cover look like?
2. Complete the right side of the page.

YOU ONLY HAVE 20 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THIS ENTIRE ACTIVITY!

RAFT: Be in the poem...

- ❖ Directions: Choose ONE of the following prompts. Construct a well thought-out response. Responses should be no longer than 1 page in length.
- 1. You are a news reporter writing the account of the man who died. Use quotes from the bystanders, emergency workers, and/or his friends.
- 2. Imagine that the drowning man has a computer and is allowed one last Facebook post. What would his status be? The status must address: how the man got there, his last thoughts, and what he is thinking about when staring at the onlookers.

Two-Minute Paper

- ❖ Directions: Choose ONE of the following prompts. Write constantly for two minutes. You will be timed! Do NOT stop writing!
1. How has your life (either now or in the past) been like the drowning man?
 2. How is your life opposite of the drowning man?