

Edgar Lee Masters gave voice to the dead in his collection of epitaph-monologues, *Spoon River Anthology*. The men and women who speak to us from beyond the grave elucidate the secret sorrows, frustrations, and desires they could not mention during life. You are being asked to breathe life into the residents of Spoon River through a performance of ONE monologue.

**THE TASK** –

1. Choose ONE *Spoon River* monologue that you find interesting, intriguing, relatable, etc.
  - a. Prepare a FULL ANALYSIS of the poem
    - i. ANNOTATION of your chosen poem
      1. Definitions/Allusions
      2. Rhetoric
      3. Asking questions of the text
      4. Inferences
    - ii. Identification of a UNIVERSAL (what Masters is saying about ‘the life of man everywhere’)
    - iii. Character description
    - iv. Choice of PORTRAIT (from the bank of images provided on the class webpage)
    - v. Identification of a PROP that would be appropriate for the character
    - vi. Identification of THREE emotions that would be appropriate for the character
  - b. Prepare a PERFORMANCE of the poem with the following
    - i. Full and accurate **memorization** of the poem
    - ii. **Vocal expression**, appropriate to the character and in service of the message
    - iii. **Physical expression**, appropriate to the character and in service of the message
    - iv. Specific performance **location** that helps to convey your message
    - v. Use of a **prop** appropriate to the character and in service of the message
    - vi. An **emotional life** appropriate to the character and in service of the message
  - c. Create a SHORT FILM of your performance. The short film should include
    - i. Your analysis
      1. written or spoken
    - ii. Your performance
    - iii. Reflection
      1. written or spoken
  - d. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES
    - i. Going above and beyond the requirements in any way, shape, or form will earn you extra credit on a sliding scale. Be creative!

	Initiative	Craftsmanship	Completion	Content
Distinguished	You used your time effectively - exploring various ideas, asking questions, and seeking out help when needed	Bravo!  Careful attention has been paid to <b>every</b> detail; there is a professional look and feel to the work	You have carefully and thoughtfully met <b>all</b> the requirements laid out.	a clear, strong understanding of <b>all</b> the concepts is in evidence
Proficient	You used your time effectively for the most part; had to be redirected once or twice	Lookin' good! Attention has been paid to <b>most</b> of the details	You have met <b>most</b> of the requirements.	A basic understanding of <b>most</b> of the concepts is in evidence
Apprentice	You used your time effectively some of the time; had to be redirected multiple times	Attention has been paid to <b>some</b> of the details	You have met <b>some</b> of the requirements.	A basic understanding of <b>some</b> of the concepts is in evidence
Novice	Did nothing (or next to nothing) during class time	What a mess!	Did you even read the directions?	You're completely lost!

**Not scorable: Did not participate.**  
**Proficient is the expected level for all students.**

**DUE DATE - \_\_\_\_\_**