

# Tea Time: Emily Dickinson

post by Wende

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson, an American poet, was born in Amherst, Massachusetts on December 10, 1830 to a prominent family. She lived a reclusive life, choosing to spend most of her time in her bedroom reading and writing poetry. Publishers often edited her poems because they did not fit the conventional poetic rules of the time. They usually lacked titles, had short lines, and oftentimes unconventional capitalization and punctuation. She wrote nearly 1800 poems in her lifetime, most of which were not published until after her death on May 15, 1886.



*Daguerreotype of the poet Emily Dickinson, taken circa 1848*

**There is no frigate like a book,**

To take us lands away,

Nor any coursers like a page

Of prancing poetry.

This traverse may the poorest take

Without oppress of toll;

How frugal is the chariot  
That bears a human soul!

**Read:**

*Poetry for Young People, Emily Dickinson*

*Emily Dickinson's Letters to the World* by Jeanette Winter

*Emily* written by Michael Bedard

*My Uncle Emily* by Jane Yolen

**Extended Learning**

Recite or memorize the poem, "There Is No Frigate"

Record what you learn about Emily Dickinson on the notebooking page.

Analyze the poem using study notes.

**Tea Time Treat**

Make Ship-shaped [Crazy Crackers](#) or [Fish Boats](#)

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# Emily Dickinson

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

What is she famous for?

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*There Is No Frigate Like a Book*  
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*There Is No Frigate Like a Book*  
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**Study Notes**

Define:

Frigate: \_\_\_\_\_

Coursers: \_\_\_\_\_

Traverse: \_\_\_\_\_

Toll: \_\_\_\_\_

Frugal: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpret:

Describe how the poet must have felt about books.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Simile - a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

\_\_\_\_\_

Metaphor - a comparison not using the words "like" or "as"

\_\_\_\_\_

Alliteration - the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words

\_\_\_\_\_

Personification - when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



*There Is No Frigate Like a Book*  
by Emily Dickinson

**Study Notes**

Define:

Frigate: an open ship propelled by both sails and oars

Coursers: a swift horse

Traverse: to cross in traveling

Toll: a tax paid for the privilege of crossing a bridge or highway

Frugal: economical

Interpret:

Describe how the poet must have felt about books.

Answers will vary. Should include reference to feeling a sense of adventure when reading a book.

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem. Give examples of the following:

Simile - a comparison using the words "like" or "as"

frigate like a book

coursers like a page

Metaphor - a comparison not using the words "like" or "as"

Compared reading to a traverse

Compared a book to a chariot

Alliteration - the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words

page of prancing poetry

Personification - when the writer gives human like qualities to a non-human

Poetry is given the ability to prance

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

Answers will vary.