

## Poetry Questions: Crane, Robinson, and Masters

### “War Is Kind”

1. In stanzas 1, 3, and 5, the speaker addresses the lovers, children, and mothers of soldiers killed in war. How is this image of war presented in stanzas 2 and 4 different from the image of war presented in the rest of the poem?
2. In what way is the refrain, “War is kind,” severely ironic?

### “Richard Cory”

- 3a. What is meant by the statement, “he glittered when he walked”? b. What is meant in lines 13-14? c. How do these lines emphasize the difference between Cory and the other townspeople?
4. Why do you think Robinson used the pronoun *we* rather than the pronoun *I*? That is, why does he describe the reaction of a group of people to Richard Cory rather than the reaction of one sensitive individual?
5. What was your reaction to the last line of the poem? Do you think this is the reaction Robinson was striving towards? Explain.

### “Richard Bone” and “Butch Weldy”

6. Why do you think Richard Bone left so many things unsaid during his life?
- 7a. What does Richard come to realize about the people of Spoonriver? b. What does he realize about himself?
8. How are epitaphs like historical chronicles?
- 9a. What happened to Butch Weldy? b. What reason does the judge give for denying him compensation for his accident?
10. What does Butch mean when he says, “I didn't know him at all”?

### “Lucinda Matlock” and “Fiddler Jones”

11. How would you characterize Lucinda Matlock's life? Was it ordinary or unusual? Happy or unhappy?
- 12a. Who are the “sons and daughters” Lucinda addressed at the end of the poem? b. Why does she call them “degenerate”? c. How do their attitudes towards life differ from hers?
- 13a. How is Fiddler Jones different from the other farmers in the community? b. He gives several examples of the way different people may view the same thing. What distinguishes his view of life?
14. Why do you think Fiddler Jones has “not a single regret”?