

Name: _____

Directions: After reading the poem, answer the questions thoroughly in legible, complete sentences.

Richard Cory

Edwin Arlington Robinson

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean-favoured and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good Morning!" and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich, yes, richer than a king,
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine -- we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked and waited for the light,
And went without the meat and cursed the bread,
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet in his head.

1. Why might people have identified Richard Cory as the embodiment of success?
2. How do the townspeople feel about Richard Cory? Explain why!
3. What was your reaction to the end of "Richard Cory"?
4. Why do you think Richard Cory kills himself?
5. How does the theme of "Richard Cory" tie into Quarter 4's theme of "The American Dream: Reality or Illusion"?