

# Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe

## Rhythm and Rhyme

Which syllables are stressed in the first two lines?

## Vocabulary

**coveted** (kuv' it əd)

v. wanted; desired

**kinsmen** (kinz' mən)

n. male relatives

It was many and many a year ago,  
In a kingdom by the sea.

That a maiden there lived whom you may know  
By the name of Annabel Lee;—

And this maiden she lived with no other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.

She was a child and I was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea.

5 But we loved with a love that was more than love—  
I and my Annabel Lee—

With a love that wingèd seraphs<sup>1</sup> of Heaven  
Coveted her and me.

And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,

A wind blew out of a cloud by night  
Chilling my Annabel Lee;

So that her highborn kinsmen came  
And bore her away from me,

10 To shut her up in a sepulcher<sup>2</sup>  
In this kingdom by the sea.

1. wingèd seraphs (ser' əfs) n. angels.

2. sepulcher (sep' əl kər) n. vault or chamber for burial; tomb.

The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,  
Went envying her and me:—  
Yes! that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)  
That the wind came out of a cloud, chilling  
And killing my Annabel Lee.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we—  
Of many far wiser than we—  
15 And neither the angels in Heaven above  
Nor the demons down under the sea,  
Can ever dissever<sup>3</sup> my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee:—

For the moon never beams without bringing  
me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
20 And so, all the nighttide, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride,  
In her sepulcher there by the sea—  
In her tomb by the side of the sea.

▲ **Critical Viewing**

Compare the emotions this photograph conveys with those the speaker feels upon looking at the sea. **[Connect]**

**Paraphrase**

How would you paraphrase lines 15–18?

**Vocabulary**

**envying** (en' vē in) v.  
wanting something that someone else has

3. **dissever** (di sev' er) v. separate; divide.

# Martin Luther King

Raymond Patterson

**Background** Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) was a great civil rights leader. He used nonviolent methods to help end legal discrimination against African Americans in the United States. Tragically, in 1968, while fighting for justice and equality, he was assassinated at the age of thirty-nine.

## Vocabulary

**passion** (pash' ən)  
*n.* strong feelings  
of love or hate

**profound** (prō found')  
*adj.* deeply or  
intensely felt

## ► Critical Viewing

What characteristics of Martin Luther King, Jr., does this photograph show? **[Infer]**

He came upon an age  
Beset<sup>1</sup> by grief, by rage—

His love so deep, so wide,  
He could not turn aside.

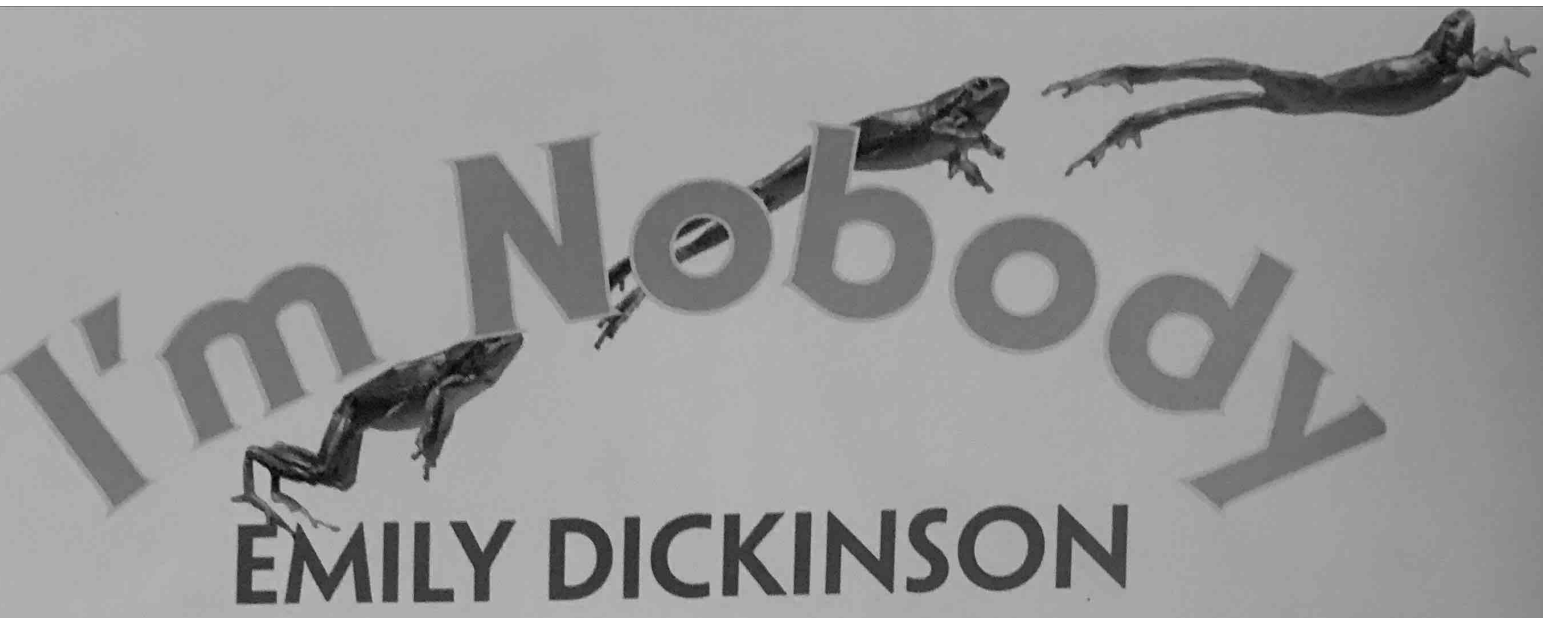
5 His passion, so profound,  
He would not turn around.

He taught a suffering earth  
The measure of man's worth.

10 For this he was slain,  
But he will come again.

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1. **Beset** (bē set') *adj.* attacked from all sides; harassed.



I'm Nobody! Who are you?  
Are you—Nobody—too?  
Then there's a pair of us!  
Don't tell! they'd banish us—you know!

5 How dreary—to be—Somebody!  
How public—like a Frog—  
To tell your name—the livelong June—  
To an admiring Bog!