

Cross-referenced Epitaphs Plan Sheet

Names of Characters		
Occupation/How Days are Spent		
Hobbies/Leisure Activities		
Details of Character's Death		
Significant Life Events		
Outlook on Life and/or Advice		
Feelings about Other Character		
Likenesses and/or Differences		
Significant Physical Traits or Abilities		
Tone of Epitaph (specific adjective)		

Use the outline above to write (on separate pages) a pair of cross-referenced epitaphs like those in the *Spoon River Anthology*. Write in first-person (*I, me, mine*), assuming the voice and tone of the character. What does each character feel strongly about? What diction (word choice, imagery, and figurative language) will best express the tone of the speaker? Let the thoughts and strong emotions of the character come out in a poetic way that will create the desired mood in the reader. Make conscious choices about where line breaks occur; the physical arrangement of the lines will contribute to the epitaph's effectiveness. The final draft of your epitaphs should be neat and free of errors, and they must include the following poetic elements:

- Descriptive **Imagery**
- Figurative Language: 1) **metaphor** or **extended metaphor**; 2) **personification** or **symbolism**; 3) **irony** (any type)
- Poetic Devices: 1) **alliteration** or **assonance**; 2) **repetition** or **refrain**; 3) **parallel structure**; 4) **rhetorical question**
- **NO RHYME**

All of these concepts are defined on the handout called *Poetry Terms*.