

# *Spoon River Anthology*

## **Terms and Definitions**

*free verse*—poetry with no regular meter, rhyme, or line length; it depends on natural speech rhythms and varied line structures to develop ideas

*stanza*—a unit of structure in poetry denoted by groups of lines that appear together, separated from other groups of lines

*epitaph*—an inscription on a gravestone; a quotation or lines which summarize the life of the deceased; a burial inscription

*anthology*—a collection of shorter literary works (poems, short stories, plays, essays) bound together in a single volume

*extended metaphor*—a figure of speech in which one element is described in terms of a dissimilar element to highlight their differences for poetic effect and carried throughout the poem as a unifying element

*parallel structure*—phrases or lines of similar construction found at various points in a poem

*rhetorical question*—a question which does not seek or require an answer; the desired effect is achieved through asking the question.

*autobiography*—an account of a person's life related directly by that person.

*analogy*—illustrating one idea through a more well-known idea, which has similarities to the first

*alliteration*—repetition of beginning consonant sounds in successive or closely successive words in a line of poetry

*allusion*—a figure of speech that makes a reference to a historical or literary figure, element, or object not in the work studied

*first-person point of view*—a viewpoint in which the narrator relates personal experiences, using the first person singular pronoun.

*cross-reference*—reference is made within one literary work to an element that appears in another literary work