

## Sizing Up People

When you meet new people your age, what interests you about them? Use the rating scale at the left. Circle the number that comes closest to showing how important you think each of the qualities on the right hand column is to you. Then compare your responses with those of your classmates.

Extremely  
Important

Not Very  
Important

1	2	3	4	5	the way they dress
1	2	3	4	5	their grades in school
1	2	3	4	5	the amount of money they have
1	2	3	4	5	the kind of possessions they have
1	2	3	4	5	the way they talk
1	2	3	4	5	their physical appearance
1	2	3	4	5	where they live in town
1	2	3	4	5	who their friends are
1	2	3	4	5	how they treat their friends
1	2	3	4	5	where they hang out
1	2	3	4	5	their ethnic background
1	2	3	4	5	their hobbies and interests
1	2	3	4	5	their sense of humor
1	2	3	4	5	their athletic abilities

1. Which of the qualities above are the most superficial? Which tell you something of true significance about the person? Do two of each.

Superficial (shallow, not important)

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Significant (important, matters)

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2. Which one of these qualities would you want to be judged by? Which would you not want to be judged by?

Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869-1935)

"Richard Cory"

1 Whenever Richard Cory went down town,  
2 We people on the pavement looked at him:  
3 He was a gentleman from sole to crown,  
4 Clean favored, and imperially slim.  
5 And he was always quietly arrayed,  
6 And he was always human when he talked;  
7 But still he fluttered pulses when he said,  
8 "Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked.  
9 And he was rich—yes, richer than a king—  
10 And admirably schooled in every grace:  
11 In fine, we thought that he was everything  
12 To make us wish that we were in his place.  
13 So on we worked, and waited for the light,  
14 And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;  
15 And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,  
16 Went home and put a bullet through his head.

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Original text: Collected Poems, with an introduction by John Drinkwater (London: Cecil Palmer, 1922): 82. PS 3535 O25A17 1922 Robarts Library.

First publication date: 1890 - 1897

Publication date note: The Children of the Night (1890-97), p. 35.

RPO poem editor: Ian Lancashire

RP edition: RPO 1998.

Recent editing: 2:2002/4/3

Rhyme: abab

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Available at Representative Poetry Online.

URL: <http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poem/1735.html>

### Reading "Richard Cory" poem and "Sizing Up People" Activity

Looking at your initial responses in the "Sizing Up People" Activity, has your opinion changed after reading and discussing "Richard Cory"? Explain your answer. Include cite text evidence.

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