

FAVORITE POEMS TAMUK

I'M NOBODY! WHO ARE YOU?(288)

Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886

This is my favorite poem out of the ones I've read in my life thus far. It makes me feel less alone and more understood. I've always felt like a nobody, in a sense that I feel I have no purpose. It reminds me that there are other people that have felt this way. Whether or not we discover we have a purpose, at least we know we're never alone. Maybe that in itself is our purpose, to share our embarrassment of trying to figure out why we're here. To be human is to recognize that we are extremely embarrassing.

Leslie Cariaga
Student

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

How dreary—to be—Somebody!
How public—like a Frog—
To tell one's name—the livelong—
To an admiring Bog!

From Pinsky, Robert, and Dietz, Maggie, eds. Americans' Favorite Poems. New York: Norton, 2000, 70.