

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class period: \_\_\_\_\_



Thomas Gray  
“Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” p. 664-671

About the Author

1. Why did Gray leave college?
2. Why is it acceptable that Gray did not produce a great amount of work?
3. What characteristics distinguish Gray’s poetry?
4. For what was he criticized?
5. What makes this poem a masterpiece?

“Elegy . . .”

1. Define elegy.
2. Define speaker.
3. Define epitaph.
4. At what time of day does the poem take place?
5. What is left to “darkness and to me”?
6. In line 15, what is the narrow cell?
7. To whom is the speaker referring in lines 21-24?
8. How does the speaker feel about ambition and grandeur?
9. What does the speaker say about the paths of glory?
10. What literary device is used in line 43?
11. To what or whom does the speaker compare a flower in the desert?
12. What positive side of living a simple life is pointed out?
13. What causes the speaker to sigh in line 80?
14. What is written on the gravestones? What is the purpose served by these holy texts?
15. What simple pleasures of the rustic life are recalled in these lines? What woes are recalled?
16. What does the “hoary headed swain” say happened to the younger man?
17. What line shows that death comes unexpectedly?
18. Epitaph: what did the simple person give? What did he receive?