

Because I Could Not Stop for Death
Emily Dickinson
1830-1886

5 Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality.

10 We slowly drove – He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For His Civility –

15 We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess – in the Ring –
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –
We passed the Setting Sun –

20 Or rather – He passed us –
The Dews drew quivering and chill –
For only Gossamer¹, my Gown –
My Tippet² – only Tulle³ –

25 We paused before a House that seemed
A Swelling of the Ground –
The Roof was scarcely visible –
The Cornice⁴ – in the Ground –

30 Since then – ‘tis Centuries – and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses’ Heads
Were toward Eternity –



- 1. Gossamer – very thin substance such as spider web or cobweb
- 2. Tippet – scarf like garment
- 3. Tulle – thin fabric, used for making tutus
- 4. Cornice – ornamental wood lining a room just below the ceiling

<u>Other words I did not know:</u>	<u>Definitions</u>

Comprehension Questions:

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What is being personified in this poem? How do you know?

2. What is revealed about the narrator in the last stanza of the poem?

Symbol	Meaning
1. The Carriage	
2. The Children	
3.	the end
4. The House	
5.	onwards toward the afterlife

Paragraph Response:

What is the narrator's **attitude** toward death in the poem? What **literary devices** help to create the **tone**? Explain their effects.
