I’m Nobody! Who are you?
Are you Nobody too?
Then there’s a pair of us!
Don’t tell! they’d banish\(^1\) us, you know! \(\text{A B}\)

**IN OTHER WORDS** I’m nobody. Who are you? Are you nobody? Then there are two of us. Don’t tell anyone that we are not anybody important, because they would not want us around.

5 How dreary\(^2\) to be Somebody!
How public—like a Frog—
To tell your name the livelong June
To an admiring Bog!\(^3\) \(\text{D}\)

**IN OTHER WORDS** It is boring to be somebody. It is too public. Being somebody is like being a frog. A frog always makes noise to announce its presence to the rest of the world.

**Comprehension Wrap-Up:**

1. The poet talks about what it is like to be Nobody, and what it is like to be Somebody. What point is she trying to make about which she would rather be?

**A READ AND DISCUSS**

Comprehension
What has the poet told you so far? Follow-up: Why does she say that they cannot tell anyone they are Nobodies?

**B HERE’S HOW**

Reading Focus
One question I ask myself is: Who is the “you” that the speaker is talking to? It sounds like she is talking directly to me, the reader. Maybe the speaker is hoping that she has found a reader who feels like a Nobody, too.

**C YOUR TURN**

Language Coach
Dickinson uses a simile in line 6. To what does the speaker compare a “somebody”?

**D HERE’S HOW**

Literary Focus
The second stanza compares a public life to living in a bog. I know this imaginative comparison is an example of a figure of speech.

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1. **banish** (BAN ihsh) v.: send away as punishment.
2. **dreary** (DREER ee) adj.: dull and lifeless.
3. **bog** (BOHG) n.: a wet place, like a marsh.

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