|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Somewhere I have Never Travelled, Gladly Beyond** |  |
| **by** [**E. E. Cummings**](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/156) | |
|  | |
| **somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond**  **any experience, your eyes have their silence:**  **in your most frail gesture are things which enclose me,**  **or which i cannot touch because they are too near**  **your slightest look easily will unclose me**  **though i have closed myself as fingers,**  **you open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens**  **(touching skillfully, mysteriously)her first rose**  **or if your wish be to close me, i and**  **my life will shut very beautifully ,suddenly,**  **as when the heart of this flower imagines**  **the snow carefully everywhere descending;**  **nothing which we are to perceive in this world equals**  **the power of your intense fragility: whose texture**  **compels me with the color of its countries,**  **rendering death and forever with each breathing**  **(i do not know what it is about you that closes**  **and opens; only something in me understands**  **the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses)**  **nobody, not even the rain, has such small hands**  Questions to respond to:   1. **E.E. Cummings wrote this poem during the era known as the Great Depression. Compare and contrast some of the ideas in the poem with those found in *The Glass Menagerie.***  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |

1. **In your own opinion, why do you think there is no punctuation in the poem?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. **What is the poem about? Can it be compared to *the Glass Menagerie* ?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. **What does the text suggest to you about an individual’s struggle to balance devotion and recognition in one’s life? *(Use any form of prose but do not write another poem)***

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |