

Who's Who – W.H. Auden

A shilling life* will give you all the facts:
How Father beat him, how he ran away,
What were the struggles of his youth, what acts
Made him the greatest figure of his day;
Of how he fought, fished, hunted, worked all night,
Though giddy, climbed new mountains; named a sea;
Some of the last researchers even write
Love made him weep his pints like you and me.

With all his honours on, he sighed for one
Who, say astonished critics, lived at home;
Did little jobs about the house with skill
And nothing else; could whistle; would sit still
Or potter round the garden; answered some
Of his long marvellous letters but kept none.

*a “shilling life” = a cheap supermarket tabloid

Assignment:

- Read the poem “Who’s Who.”
 - Answer the following questions. Be sure to number them.
 - Include specific evidence and from the poem.
 - Include strong reasoning.
1. Examine the differences in *language* between the first and second stanza. (Consider, in particular, the **verbs** used.)
 - a. What do you notice?
 - b. What function does this difference serve?
 2. How does the person in the second stanza (the one who putters around the garden) feel about the one mentioned in the first (the explorer)? How can you tell? Give evidence and reasoning.
 3. What would you say the theme of this poem is? Support with evidence and reasoning. (A few sentences will do.)

★ **Remember to click “Turn in” when you’re finished.**
This is an EBA assignment.
Extensions not allowed.