

# Poetry Digital Escape Room

## "Because I could not stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson

### Teacher Instructions

Your students are going to love deciphering and solving puzzles in this educational, 360° digital escape room. This activity is designed to work for a laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Students will solve a series of clues based on the poem "Because I could not stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson. Please do not share this link with other educators as it is my copyrighted work and against my terms of licensing. You can purchase additional licenses in my [TpT store](#).

Have your students work independently or in teams; I recommend pairs! Included in this zip folder are teacher instructions, student instructions, the master lock graphic organizer, answer keys, a copy of the poem, and a reflection sheet. While using this resource, you must have a wi-fi connection and the ability to access the following sites: [kuula.co](#) and Google Forms (your students do not need a Google account).

### Poetry Escape Room

The room is a 360 degree panoramic photo, so the clues are all about the room. You must click your mousepad and hold down the cursor to scan the entire room. Drag the arrow in whichever way you'd like to go. If you are using a smart phone, simply swipe your finger. **No password is required to gain access to the room.** If this happens to you, your district's firewall is blocking the program and you should contact your IT department.

1. Share directions with your students digitally (it includes the link to the escape room).
2. Verbally review the rules with your students.
3. Set a timer for 45 minutes using a classroom timer or use an online [free countdown timer](#); make sure students are aware that they are being timed. Timing students is completely optional!
4. Pass out the "Master Lock" graphic organizers to students. You may also choose to pass out a copy of the poem to students as well.
5. Upon entering the room, have your students start by clicking the START HERE button. This is where they will read the full poem for the first time.
6. Next, students should start solving clues. The clues are labeled by numbers. For every clue students figure out, they must record their answers on their master lock graphic organizer (on paper). The master lock (a google form) requires six correct answers from all six clues and is mandatory for students to "escape." They can find the Master Lock located on the carriage. Click the lock and a link will appear.
7. Once the time is up, you can have students fill out a reflection sheet (optional).



Name:

Class:



# The Master Lock



Clue Number	Answers
Clue #1	
Clue #2	
Clue #3	
Clue #4	
Clue #5	
Clue #6	

# CLUE 1

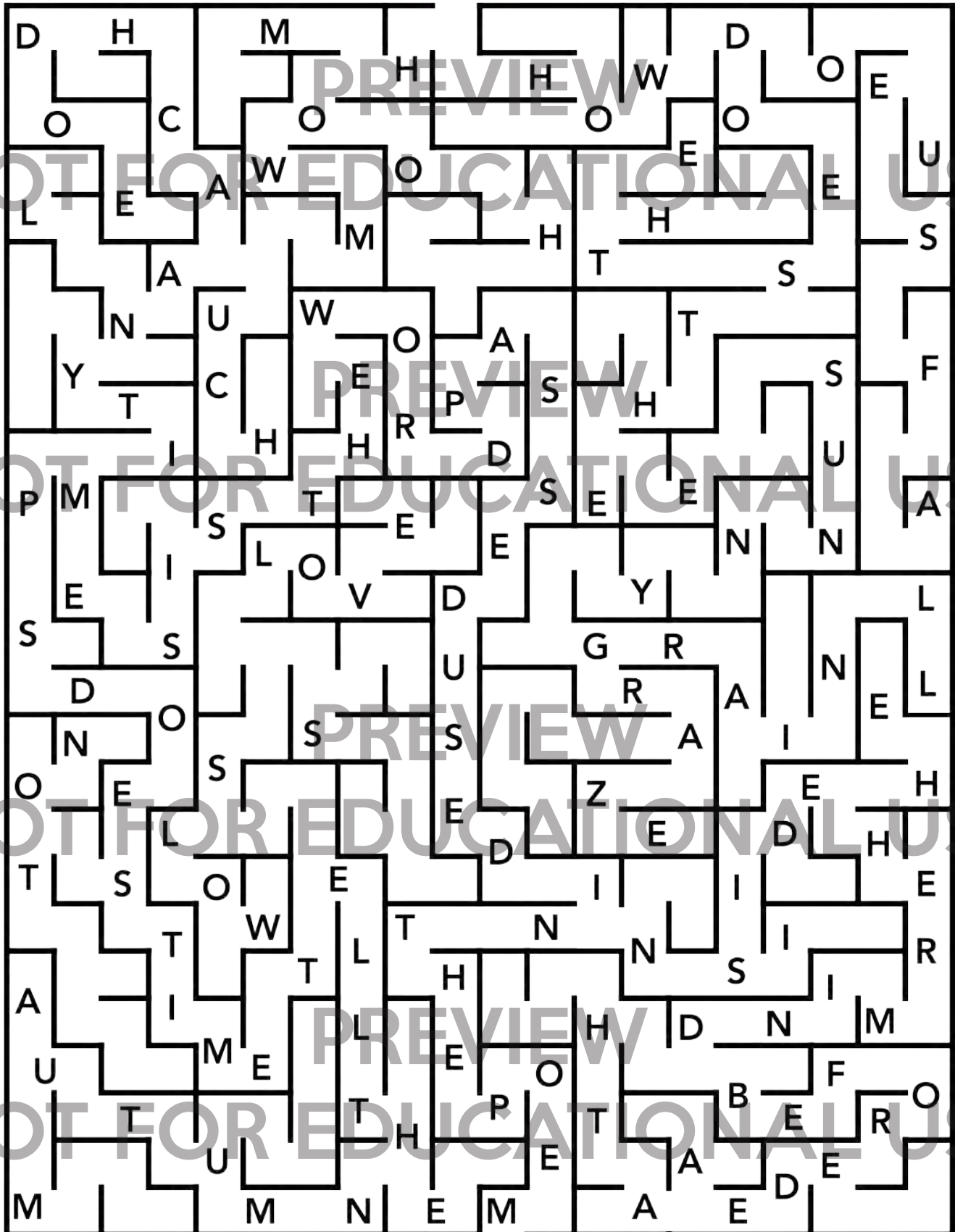
a	b	c	d	e	f
g	h	i	j	k	l
m	n	o	p	q	r

s	t
w	x
y	z



# CLUE 2

start



finish



A	9
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	25
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	2
N	15
O	
P	10
Q	
R	19
S	
T	
U	
V	18
W	
X	
Y	
Z	

## CLUE 3

Each letter corresponds to a number and vice versa. Complete the partially finished phrase by guessing the missing letters. As you guess letters correctly, you will find that the puzzle becomes easier and easier.

$\frac{\quad}{13}$   $\frac{R}{19}$   $\frac{\quad}{8}$   $\frac{M}{2}$

$\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{H}{25}$   $\frac{A}{9}$   $\frac{\quad}{26}$

$\frac{P}{10}$   $\frac{\quad}{8}$   $\frac{\quad}{23}$   $\frac{N}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{26}$

$\frac{\quad}{8}$   $\frac{\quad}{13}$   $\frac{V}{18}$   $\frac{\quad}{23}$   $\frac{\quad}{11}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$

$\frac{\quad}{23}$   $\frac{S}{6}$   $\frac{\quad}{26}$   $\frac{H}{25}$   $\frac{\quad}{11}$

$\frac{P}{10}$   $\frac{\quad}{8}$   $\frac{\quad}{11}$   $\frac{M}{2}$

$\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{R}{19}$   $\frac{\quad}{23}$   $\frac{\quad}{26}$   $\frac{\quad}{26}$   $\frac{\quad}{11}$   $\frac{N}{15}$   $?$

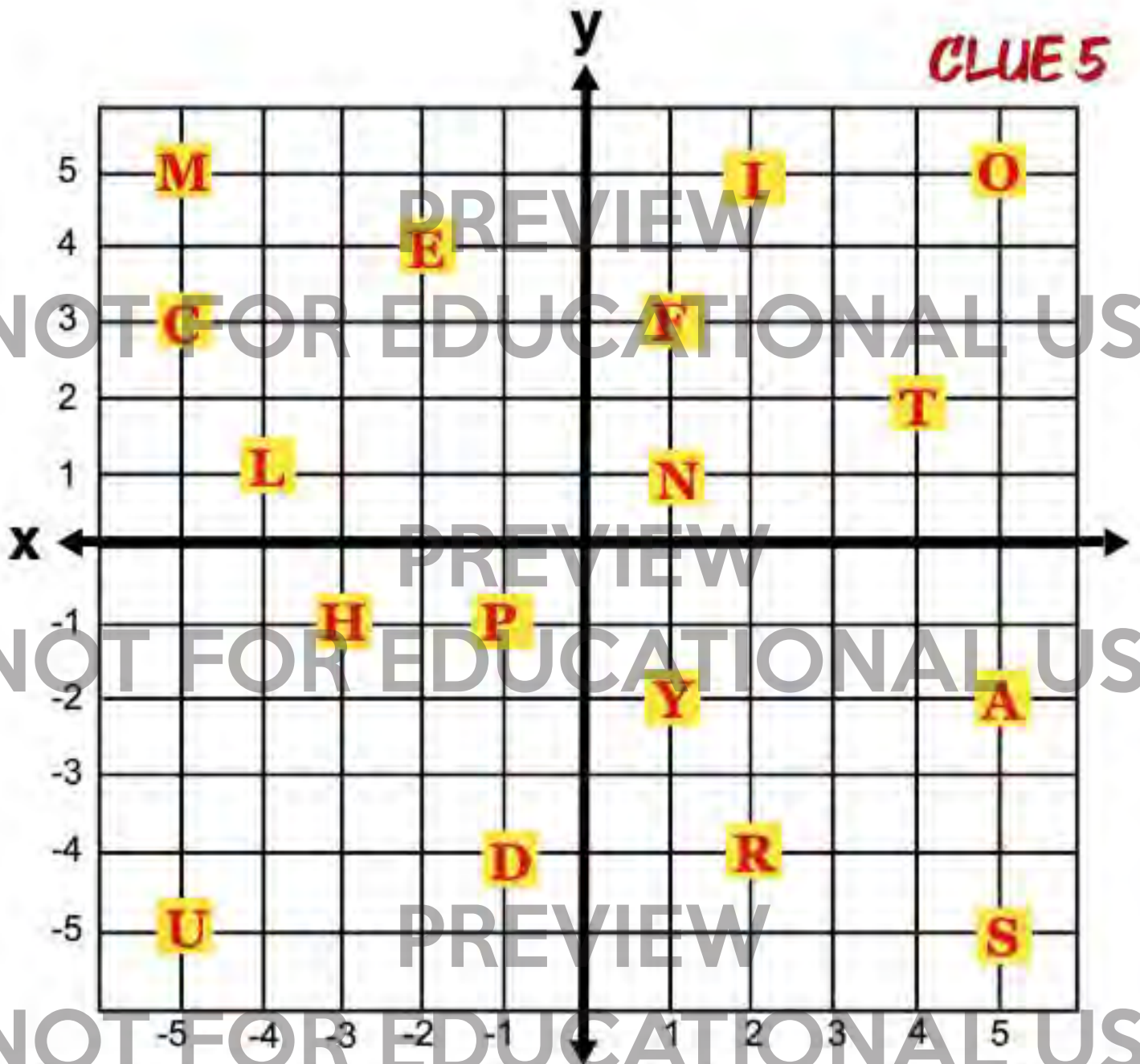
Place the correct missing letters into the diagram to form words reading left to right. Then read the filled in letters from top to bottom to reveal your clue.

WHAT

CLUE 4

	C	A	R	R		A	G	E		
			G	O		S	A	M	E	R
I	M	M	O	R		A	L	I	T	Y
						O	R	S	E	
			F	I		L	D	S		
						L	O	W	L	Y
	S	T	O	P		E	D			
	Q	U	I	V		R	I	N	G	
			H			S	T	E		
						I	N	D	L	Y
			S	W		L	L	I	N	G
			C	O		N	I	C	E	
		L	E	I		U	R	E		
		G	E	N		L	E			
	I	N	E	V		T	A	B	L	E
P	E	R	C	E		T	I	O	N	
						E	A	C	E	
J	O	U	R	N		Y				
		C	E	N		U	R	I	E	S
			H	U		A	N	I	T	Y
			S	T		G	E	S		
	C	H	I	L		R	E	N		
	G	R	A	V						
			C	R		P	S			
		C	O	M		O	R	T		

CLUE 5



Each pair of numbers below represent a letter and each row represents a word that spells out your clue. Find each letter by following the coordinates on the graph.

	4, 2	-3, -1	-2, 4		
5,-2	-5,-5	4,2	-3,-1	5,5	2, -4
		5,5	1,3		
	4, 2	-3, -1	-2, 4		
-1,-1	5,5	-2,4	-5,5		
	2,5	5,-5	?		

**Because I could not stop for Death**  
**Clue #6**

Answer the following questions. Write down your final answer on your graphic organizer.

**1)What does the carriage ride symbolize in the poem?**

- a. A romantic getaway
- b. A daily routine
- c. The passage of time and the approach of death
- d. The grieving process of losing a child

**2) Why does the speaker in Emily Dickinson's poem state that she could not stop for Death?**

- a. The speaker indicates that Death comes unpredictably and without regard for one's readiness or ability to control it.
- b. The speaker intentionally chose to ignore Death because she did not believe in an afterlife.
- c. The speaker was physically unable to stop for Death due to illness.
- d. The speaker was already prepared for Death and did not need to stop for it.

**3)How does Emily Dickinson personify Death in the poem?**

- a. Death is portrayed as a mischievous trickster who delights in causing chaos.
- b. Death is portrayed as a hasty, aggressive force.
- c. Death is represented as a lone traveler who is searching for companionship.
- d. Death is personified as a kind and courteous companion.

**4)Which of the following best describes the mood of the poem?**

- a. Sarcastic and humorous
- b. Playful and whimsical
- c. Melancholy and serene
- d. Suspenseful and panicked

**5)How does the speaker feel about the journey with Death by the end of the poem?**

- a. Afraid and resistant
- b. Disoriented and confused
- c. Hostile and uncooperative
- d. Peaceful and accepting

**6) Which below best exemplifies a theme from the poem?**

- a. Authentic identity is more valuable than conforming to societal expectations.
- b. Death is a natural and inevitable part of life.
- c. There is freedom in being unnoticed and escaping the pressures of public life.
- d. Human inventions influence the natural dynamic of life and death.



## Master Lock

This is where students will find the Google form to escape. They will type in all their answers from clues 1-6. If they are correct, they will get the screen that says “Congratulations!” (Shown below.)

Because I could not stop for Death  
Master Lock

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You've escaped!!!

[Submit another response](#)



The Master Lock Google Form Link is located right here! Just click the lock!

TEACHER TIP: If your students are struggling at any point, give them a hint!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at

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