

Name: _____ Class: _____

No Man Is An Island

By John Donne
1624

John Donne (1572-1631) was an English poet whose time spent as a cleric in the Church of England often influenced the subjects of his poetry. In 1623, Donne suffered a nearly fatal illness, which inspired him to write a book of meditations on pain, health, and sickness called Devotions upon Emergent Occasions. "No Man is an Island" is a famous section of "Meditation XVII" from this book. As you read, draw connections between the modern version of "No Man is an Island" and the original olde English version of the poem.

Modern Version

- [1] No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod¹ be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory² were, as
- [5] well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.



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Olde English Version

- [6] No man is an lland, intire of itselfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as
- [10] well as if a Manor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

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1. **Clod (noun):** a piece of earth; a clump of soil
2. **Promontory (noun):** projecting point of land or of a bodily organ

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. The island most likely represents which of the following? [RL.4]
- A. Weakness
 - B. Isolation
 - C. Friendship
 - D. Anger

2. The continent most likely represents which of the following: [RL.4]
- A. Commonality between all men and women
 - B. Strength in times of hardship
 - C. A group of people suffering
 - D. Europe

3. According to the poet, what is the one thing that all people will experience: [RL.6]
- A. Happiness
 - B. Love
 - C. Individuality
 - D. Death

4. PART A: Write a sentence that expresses the theme of "No Man is an Island." [RL.2]

5. PART B: What techniques does the poet use to develop the theme? [RL.1]

6. What is the poet's likely purpose for the final two lines of the poem? "And therefore never send to know for whom/ the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." [RL.3]
