

NAME: _____
American Literature and Composition Honors
Revolution Period: *Ben Franklin*

A PRINTER'S EPITAPH (1728)

The Body of
B. Franklin,
Printer;
Like the Cover of an old Book,
Its Contents torn out,
And stript of its Lettering and Gilding,
Lies here, Food for Worms.
But the Work shall not be wholly lost:
For it will, as he believed, appear once more,
In a new and more perfect Edition,
Corrected and amended
By the Author.
He was born Jan. 6, 1706.
Died 17-



Franklin composed his own epitaph when he was twenty-two.

Analyze and Interpret

1. Franklin's epitaph makes a revealing contrast beside this popular Puritan epitaph:
*Life is uncertain, Death is sure
Sin the wound and Christ the cure.*
How do the two epitaphs suggest the difference between the Puritan age into which Franklin was born, and the Age of Reason in which he matured?
2. What does Franklin compare his body to?
3. How do you interpret his statement that the book will appear again "In a new and more perfect Edition, / Corrected and amended / By the Author."?

Homework Assignment

Compose an EPITAPH on some well-known person, living or deceased, utilizing an appropriate **simile** to suggest the essential nature of that person's life. You might begin: "*Here lies _____, like ...*" Make sure the chosen simile is well developed throughout the epitaph, such as in Franklin's example.

Please type the assignment.

Point Value = 8 Points

_____ / 6 Points

- Utilizes an appropriate simile to suggest the essential nature of the chosen person's life
- Adequately develops the simile throughout the epitaph
- Creative

_____ / 2 Points

- Neatly typed and centered on the page
- Contains no spelling or grammatical errors